TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS®

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS

VOLUME 2

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GREEN LANTERN CORPS™

IN THE AIRLESS DEPTHS OF SPACE-SECTOR 47, A PROUD MEMBER OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS READIES TO PASS INTO LEGEND...

HE HAS BATTLED A GREAT ENEMY AND HE HAS WON ...BUT AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE...

HIS LAST GLIMMERS OF ENERGY PROPEL HIM TO A NEARBY WINTERY WORLD... BUT THIS IS NOT HIS STORY... THIS IS...

THE LYSANDRA SAGA

PART ONE: "SINS IN THE STARS!"

THE DYING GREEN LANTERN KNOWS THIS WORLD ...AND ITS HISTORY ...THIS IS ZINTHA, WHERE, EONS AGO, THE SURVIVORS OF A SPACE WAR CAME TO SETTLE AND SEEK PEACE...

IN THE ENSUING AGES, THEIR LAW AGAINST RETURNING TO THE STARS HAS EVOLVED IN-TO A RELIGION...

GAZE NOT AT THE STARS, DREAM NOT OF THE STARS, SEEK NOT THE STARS... FOR THERE IS WHERE YOU BEGAN, AND AMONG THE STARS IS WHERE YOU SHALL PERISH..., IN THE NAME OF THAR, AMEN!

AMEN...

THAR HELP ME! I KNOW IT IS THE GREATEST OF BLASPHEMY, BUT I HAVE HEARD THE BECKONING OF THE STARS!

YOUNG STUDENT LYSANDRA DEPARTS FROM THE TEMPLE OF THAR TO CROSS THE ZINTHIAN WASTES ALONE ... HER FEARS FREEZING HER HEART AS THE WIND FREEZES THE GROUND ...

IF THE PRIESTS SAW ME STARING STARWARD, I WOULD CERTAINLY BE PUNISHED ... BUT WHAT DRIVES ME TOWARDS THE FORBIDDEN HEAVENS !?

FIGHTING A LIFETIME OF SACRED TRAINING, LYSANDRA LETS HER EYES GAZE UPWARDS AGAIN -- BUT THIS TIME SHE SEES MORE THAN THE MAJESTIC STARS-- !

GREAT THAR ! SOMETHING FALLS FROM THE VERY SKY ! IS ... IS THIS THE OMEN I WAS MEANT TO SEE ?

THAR PROTECT ME ! HE ... HE MUST BE A *DEMON* -- FOR HE HAS OBVIOUSLY BROKEN SACRED LAW AND TRAVELED IN OUTER SPACE ! HE SPEAKS, BUT I UNDERSTAND HIM NOT !

YOU ... APPROACH ... ME ... WITHOUT ... FEAR ...

THOUGH HE BE BLASPHEMER, HE NEEDS AID -- I BELIEVE HE IS DYING !

I KNOW YOUR PEOPLE SHUN AND FEAR ... SPACE TRAVELERS ... YET ... YOU AID ME. THEN IT SHALL BE YOU, FEARLESS ONE ...

... MY DUTY ... AS A GREEN LANTERN ... COMPELS ME ... TO PASS ON MY POWER ... TO A DESERVING ONE WHO IS ... HONEST ... AND FEARLESS ...

... AND THOUGH YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ME ... YOU SHALL BE MY SUCCESSOR !

AND AS HIS DYING ACT, THE GREEN LANTERN OF SPACE-SECTOR 47 BLASTS HIS FINAL THOUGHTS DIRECTLY INTO THE BRAIN OF THE ZINTHIAN KNOWN AS LYSANDRA ...

YAAHHH !

THUS, FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, SHE SHALL BE -- GREEN LANTERN !

THAT GREEN BLAST! IT'S FILLED MY HEAD WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE ALIEN'S POWER -- HOW HIS RING CREATES FROM ITS WEARER'S WILL POWER -- HOW IT IS POWERLESS AGAINST THAT WHICH IS YELLOW -- AND HOW IT MUST BE RECHARGED EVERY 35 KORS! *

*EQUALING 24 EARTHLY HOURS--

HE... HIS BODY -- IT'S GONE! AND IN ITS PLACE IS A POWER RING, A UNIFORM, AND A BATTERY OF POWER! I KNOW THESE THINGS THROUGH THE THOUGHTS HE BEAMED INTO MY BRAIN...

...AND I ALSO KNOW THAT THESE MANTLES OF POWER... ARE NOW MINE!

BUT HOW CAN I ACCEPT SUCH POWER -- IT COMES FROM THE STARS! AND THAT WHICH COMES FROM THE STARS IS EVIL--! I--

RRRUMMBBLLEE

BUT THE YOUNG WOMAN'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED BY THE RUMBLING SOUNDS OF IMPENDING DISASTER!

AND AT THE TEMPLE OF THAR...

RUUMMRBLLE

RUN! THE WRATH OF THAR DESCENDS UPON US!

BUT THEN...FROM ACROSS THE FROZEN WASTES OF ZINTHA...

LOOK! A SPIRIT -- A GODDESS SAVES US AND THAR'S TEMPLE!

THAR SENDS HER-- SHE IS CLAD IN GREEN --THE SACRED COLOR OF LIFE!

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AGENT OF THAR! DESCEND AND RECEIVE OUR HUMBLE THANKS FOR SAVING US AND YOUR TEMPLE! DESCEND, FOR WE ARE SWORN NOT TO GAZE STARWARD...

YOU...YOU ARE ONE OF OUR PEOPLE, NOT AN ANGEL! AND YOUR FACE...

I HAVE BEEN GRACED BY THE WISDOM OF THAR TO WIELD GREAT POWER, NOBLE PRIEST. BUT I WISH NOT TO BE EXALTED OVER OTHERS. MY TRUE IDENTITY SHALL BE KNOWN ONLY TO THAR!

WITH THE PASSING OF MANY DAYS, THE FAME OF THE NEWEST GREEN LANTERN SPREADS AMONG THE DEVOUT POPULATION OF THE ICY WORLD OF ZINTHA...

SHE PROTECTS, RESCUES AND AIDS HER PEOPLE...

AND EVERY 35 KORS SHE RENEWS HER SOLEMN OATH...

AS I TOUCH THIS BATTERY, FLOW THE POWER INTO ME, GUIDE MY HAND, MY HEART, MY SOUL... MAKE RIGHT AND JUSTICE MY LASTING GOAL...

...IN THE NAME OF THAR, AMEN!

BUT ON THE 47TH DAY OF HER GREEN LANTERN CAREER...

I HAVE KEPT FREE OF SIN! I'VE NOT GAZED SKYWARD SINCE I--*UNNH!* WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?! I FEEL AS THOUGH DRAINED OF ENERGY--*FALLING!*

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IN THE NAME OF THAR, WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME?

YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE, BATTERY POSSESSOR OF SPACE-SECTOR 47 ! IT IS WE WHO TRANSPORTED THE BODY OF YOUR PREDECESSOR TO YOUR WORLD ...

...AND WE WHO ISSUED YOU HIS RING, UNIFORM AND BATTERY ... AFTER YOUR INITIAL TRIAL AS A GREEN LANTERN, WE BRING YOU HERE TO ...

NOOOOOO! BY GREAT THAR! I CANNOT LEAVE THE ATMOSPHERE OF MOTHER ZINTHA ! YOU'VE COMPELLED ME TO THE GREATEST SIN ! TAKE BACK YOUR MANTLES OF POWER! I--

FEAR NOT, YOU WHO ARE CALLED LYSANDRA. YOU ARE BUT AN ENERGY DUPLICATE OF THE TRUE LYSANDRA, WHO REMAINS ON ZINTHA. AND YOU SHALL BE RETURNED IN A MANNER SO THAT NO TIME WILL HAVE PASSED ...

SOME MINUTES LATER, AFTER THE ENERGY-DUPLICATE OF LYSANDRA HAS COMPOSED ITSELF BEFORE THE GUARDIANS ...

YOU CALLED ME BATTERY POSSESSOR OF A SPACE-SECTOR--AND THOUGH I RECOGNIZE YOUR GREAT CAUSE OF JUSTICE, I CANNOT LEAVE MY WORLD ! THUS IS THE WORD OF THAR ...

ETERNALLY JUST, THE GUARDIANS DELIBERATE CONCERNING THE UNIQUE BELIEFS OF THEIR NEWEST BATTERY POSSESSOR AND HER PEOPLE ...AND SO REACH A MOMENTOUS DECISION ...

LYSANDRA OF ZINTHA ...YOU HAVE DONE HONOR AS A GREEN LANTERN. THE BATTERY, RING AND UNIFORM ARE YOURS-- FOR USE EXCLUSIVELY ON ZINTHA .

GO, AND KNOW YOU ARE HONORED BY US AND YOUR DIETY ...

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INSTANTANEOUSLY, LYSANDRA'S ENERGY DUPLICATE IS RETURNED TO HER BODY OVER THE ZINTHIAN CAPITOL...

I AM WHOLE AGAIN-- MY ENERGY HAS RETURNED AND I REMEMBER ALL THAT TRANSPIRED WITH THE NOBLE GUARDIANS...

...BUT I WILL NOT -- CANNOT SPEAK OF THE GUARDIANS...TO DO SO WOULD BRAND ME A BLASPHEMER, AND AT THIS TIME I AM ANSWERING A CALL BY THE CHIEF PRIESTS THEMSELVES...

PRAISE THAR--YOU HAVE HEARD OUR BROADCAST PLEA, GREEN LANTERN. WE GREET YOU IN OUR KOR OF GREATEST DANGER TO ALL ZINTHA...

DANGER?

YOU KNOW WE CANNOT LOOK TO THE HEAVENS, BUT THE AUTOMATIC MACHINES OF ZINTHA'S SCIENTISTS RECORD THE MOVEMENTS OF OUR PLANET AND ITS SUN...

...AND WE KNOW THAT OUR SUN-- THOUGH IT IS NOW A COOLING STAR--WILL SOON GO NOVA AND BURN THIS PLANET TO A CINDER!

GREAT THAR--!

THEN WE MUST MOVE... MOVE THE PEOPLE OUT OF THE RANGE OF DANGER...

IN THAR'S NAME-- YOU SPEAK BLASPHEMY! MOVE FROM ZINTHA?!

NO, HOLY MAN! HEAR ME! I SEEK NOT TO MOVE THE PEOPLE OF ZINTHA...

...WITH MY POWER, I SAY WE CAN MOVE THE PLANET *ITSELF!*

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THE DAY OF DOOM APPROACHES WITH REMARKABLE SPEED... BUT ON THE EVE OF THAT FINAL DAY...

ZINTHIANS! HEAR ME! MY POWER IS YOUR POWER! LET YOUR WILLS BE ONE WITH A SINGLE GOAL!

BEHOLD! THIS BATTERY OF POWER IS THE SOURCE OF MY ABILITIES... USE IT! CHANNEL YOUR WILLS INTO IT! COMMAND IT TO MOVE ZINTHA AWAY FROM THE BURNING RAYS OF THE DYING SUN!

FOR A MOMENT THERE IS NOTHING...THEN AS THE WILLS OF UNCOUNTABLE THOUSANDS FOCUS ON THE BATTERY OF POWER -- THE PLANET ZINTHA MOVES!

BUT AS IT DOES--!

MY BRAIN! SOMETHING ATTACKS IT! THE PAIN--!

STOP! ZINTHIAN WHO WIELDS THE POWER TO MOVE WORLDS -- STOP! I CANNOT PERMIT YOU TO MOVE THIS PLANET! ATTEMPT AGAIN, AND FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!

BY THAR--BY THE GUARDIANS! SOME FORCE FROM OUTER SPACE PREVENTS THE SALVATION OF MY PEOPLE -- AND IF IT IS FROM THE STARS -- HOW CAN EVEN MY GREEN POWER STOP IT?

MUST THE NEWEST GREEN LANTERN BREAK HER RELIGIOUS VOWS TO KEEP THE VOW OF THE POWER RING AND SAVE HER WORLD? WHO OR WHAT SEEKS TO PREVENT THE MOVING OF ZINTHA -- AND WHY?
FOR THE CONCLUSION OF "THE LYSANDRA SAGA," READ --

"SUN-FALL"

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TALES of the GREEN LANTERN CORPS

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HER NAME IS LYSANDRA ... AND SHE IS ONE OF THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE FABLED GREEN LANTERN CORPS ...

BUT SHE IS SPECIAL, THIS NATIVE OF THE WINTERY PLANET ZINTHA ... FOR HER GOD, A DEITY KNOWN ONLY AS THAR, HAS DENIED HER AND HER PEOPLE THE STARS ...

GREAT THAR ... WHAT POSSIBLE COURSE OF ACTION CAN I TAKE? MY WORLD IS ATTACKED FROM SPACE, BUT I AM NOT PERMITTED TO TRAVEL IN SPACE! HOW CAN I BE MY PEOPLE'S SALVATION IN THEIR HOUR OF GREATEST NEED!? WHAT GOOD IS ALL MY POWER!?

ATTEMPTING TO SAVE HER PLANET OF ZINTHA, LYSANDRA MUST HALT THIS DEVASTATING ONSLAUGHT FROM ENEMIES UNKNOWN ... AND SHE MUST COMPLETE THIS IMPOSSIBLE MISSION BEFORE THE HOUR OF ...

SUN-FALL!

PART TWO OF "THE LYSANDRA SAGA"

MY PEOPLE ARE BELOW, IN THE GREAT HALL! THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO MOVE ZINTHA AWAY FROM OUR SUN WHICH THE SCIENTISTS CLAIM WILL NOVA SOON...

...BUT THE VOICE CONTROLLING THESE FORCE BOLTS SAID IT WAS OUT TO PREVENT US FROM MOVING OUR WORLD!

"I GAVE MY PEOPLE MY BATTERY OF POWER...WITH ITS ENERGY THEY CAN USE THEIR COLLECTIVE WILL POWER TO MOVE THE PLANET TO A SAFE ORBIT WITHOUT VIOLATING THAR'S LAW...THEY WILL NOT TRAVEL IN SPACE, BUT ZINTHA THE PLANET WILL!"

MOVE, ZINTHA...MOVE AWAY FROM THE SUN... MOVE...MOVE...

THEY ARE SUCCEEDING! BUT THIS MYSTERIOUS ENEMY WILL HALT THEM UNLESS I CAN DRIVE THEM OFF WITHOUT LEAVING THE ATMOSPHERE OF ZINTHA! BUT HOW!?

WHEN THEY FIRST ATTACKED THEY ISSUED A MENTAL WARNING DIRECTLY INTO MY BRAIN... THEY CAN COMMUNICATE! PERHAPS I CAN REESTABLISH A DIALOGUE BETWEEN US, NEGOTIATE A SETTLEMENT...

ATTACKERS -- FOLLOW ME TO THE SURFACE OF MY WORLD!

CEASE YOUR ATTACK AND STAND WITH ME ON SACRED ZINTHA. THE GREAT GOD THAR PROHIBITS MY PEOPLE FROM TRAVELING TO OR EVEN GAZING UPON THE STARS...

VERY WELL, YOU WHO ATTEMPT TO MOVE WORLDS... I SHALL COME... AWAIT ME!

SHE EXPECTS TO HEAR MIGHTY ROARS OF SPACESHIP ENGINES ...BUT, INSTEAD, ONLY A GENTLE WHISPER OF SOUND HERALDS THE ARRIVAL OF THE STRANGER FROM SPACE...

YOU!? NO, IN THE NAME OF THAR, IT CANNOT BE! I WITNESSED YOUR DEATH!

YOU ... YOU' ARE THE CORPS MEMBER WHO GAVE ME THE POWER RING, UNIFORM AND BATTERY OF POWER! YOU DIED!

NAY, 'TWAS NOT I, BUT MY KINSMAN. THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE NOTIFIED MY WORLD OF HIS DEMISE, AND SELECTED ME TO REPLACE HIM ...

... BUT I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! YOUR WORLD IS IN SPACE SECTOR 47 -- THE ONE THE GUARDIANS ASSIGNED ME -- SPOL OF CYC -- TO PROTECT! WHY DID THEY ASSIGN TWO BATTERY POSSESSORS TO A SINGLE SECTOR ...?

I CAN EXPLAIN ...

"I WAS SELECTED BY YOUR KINSMAN IN HIS LAST MOMENT OF LIFE TO BECOME HIS SUCCESSOR -- AND I DID SO, TAKING HIS POWER RING, BATTERY AND UNIFORM TO DO JUSTICE ON MY WORLD WHERE HE FELL TO DIE ...

... THEN MY ENERGY DUPLICATE WAS SUMMONED TO OA WHERE I CONFESSED TO THE GREAT GUARDIANS OF MY RELIGIOUS CONVICTION PREVENTING ME FROM PATROLLING A SPACE SECTOR ... "

THE GUARDIANS GRANTED ME SPECIAL DISPENSATION TO BE THE GREEN LANTERN FOR ZINTHA ALONE, SAYING THEY WOULD SELECT ANOTHER TO PATROL SPACE SECTOR 47...

THEY CALLED ON ME ... STRANGE THEY DID NOT MENTION YOUR PRESENCE WHEN THEY DISPATCHED ME HERE ...

WHY DID THEY SEND YOU HERE, SPOL? WHAT MISSION -- WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

PERFORMING MY DUTY, ZINTHIAN -- STOPPING THIS WORLD FROM LEAVING ITS ORBIT --!

CLA... ...NGG

NO! STOP! MY PEOPLE ARE WITHIN THE GREAT HALL! I'LL NOT LET YOU DESTROY THEM!

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO MOVE OUR WORLD FROM THE DANGER POSED BY OUR SUN, WHICH WILL SOON GO NOVA ! I WILL KNOW WHY YOU ARE TRYING TO STOP US FROM SAVING OURSELVES !

BUT FIRST I SHALL TAKE YOU TO A DESERTED PLACE SO THAT MY PEOPLE WILL NOT SEE YOU ... IF THEY SAW ME CONVERSING WITH ONE WHO TRAVELS IN SPACE, THEY WOULD BRAND ME BLASPHEMER !

VERY WELL, I SHALL EXPLAIN ... BUT HURRY, TIME GROWS SHORT !

SOON, ATOP THE HIGHEST PEAK ON THE ICY WORLD OF ZINTHA ...

YOUR SCIENTISTS ARE WRONG, LYSANDRA -- YOUR SUN IS NOT GOING TO NOVA !

BECAUSE YONDER BURNING ORB IS NOT A SUN !

YOU SPEAK IN RIDDLES, SPOL !

I SPEAK TRUE, LYSANDRA ! THE GLOWING BLOB OF ENERGY THAT BARELY HEATS YOUR WORLD IS A LIVING BEING ! IT GIVES NOT SIGNS OF EXPLODING, BUT THE FIRST INDICATIONS OF ... IMPENDING BIRTH !

SHE CALLED THE GUARDIANS WHEN SHE FELT ZINTHA MOVING FROM ORBIT ! SUCH AN IMBALANCE WOULD MAKE THE BIRTHING PROCESS DIFFICULT FOR CERTAIN, POSSIBLY FATAL ! SHE -- *GREAT GUARDIANS !* IT BEGINS NOW ! WE'VE TARRIED TOO LONG !

HOLY THAR ! I MUST STOP MY PEOPLE !

ABOVE ALL ELSE, WE ZINTHIANS HOLD LIFE AS THE MOST SACRED OF FORCES ! THE HIGH PRIESTS ACCEPTED MY AID BECAUSE OF THE GREEN OF THE CORPS UNIFORM -- FOR GREEN IS THE COLOR OF LIVING THINGS, OF LIFE !

I MUST STOP THEM FROM MOVING THE PLANET -- STOP THEM FROM COMMITTING *MURDER* !

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HER MIGHTY POWER RING SMASHING ALL OBSTACLES BEFORE HER, THE GREEN LANTERN OF ZINTHA ENTERS THE GREAT HALL WHERE THE PLANET MOVERS CONCENTRATE ON HER BATTERY OF POWER...

SMASH!!

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN ... I MUST GET THE BATTERY OUT OF RANGE OF THEIR WILL POWER -- IF ONLY I HAVE THE STRENGTH !

IT IS GREEN LANTERN !

WHAT DOES SHE DO !? WITHOUT HER POWER BATTERY WE CANNOT HOPE TO SAVE ZINTHA FROM FIERY DESTRUCTION !

I MOVED SO RAPIDLY THAT MANY DID NOT SEE ME ENTER AND LEAVE -- THEY'RE STILL EXERTING THEIR WILLS INTO THE BATTERY, TUGGING AT ITS VERY CORE!

BUT LYSANDRA IS BUT ONE BEING ...AND SHE IS PITTING HER WILL AGAINST THE WILL OF THOUSANDS ...

CAN ...GO ... NO...FURTHER ! ONLY ONE THING ...LEFT TO... ATTEMPT ... !

EVERY 35 KORS THE POWER RING MUST BE CHARGED ON THE BATTERY OF POWER...AND THOUGH SHE DOES NOT YET NEED TO CHARGE THE RING, SHE USES THE RITUAL TO INSPIRE GREATER INNER STRENGTH !

AS I TOUCH THIS BATTERY,.. FLOW THE POWER INTO ME. GUIDE MY HAND, MY HEART, MY SOUL... MAKE RIGHT AND JUSTICE MY LASTING GOAL ! IN...THE...NAME ...OF...THAR... AMEN !

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THEN, WITH A MIGHTY EFFORT BORN OF NEW RESOLVE--!

DID IT! THANK THAR!

AND THOUSANDS OF MILES ABOVE...

THE ZINTHIAN FEMALE HAS SUCCEEDED! THE PLANET NO LONGER MOVES FROM ORBIT...NOW I MUST PERFORM MY DUTY!

THERE! THE ORBIT IS RE-ESTABLISHED...AND JUST IN TIME! I BELIEVE THE HOUR HAS COME...

GREEN LANTERN! YOU STOPPED US! YOU HAVE DOOMED US ALL!

NOT SO, PRIEST! LOOK-- LOOK TO THE HEAVENS! THAR WILL NOT STRIKE YOU DOWN! FOR YOU SHALL WITNESS THAT WHICH IS MOST SACRED BY THAR'S OWN WORDS...

PERHAPS IT IS GREEN LANTERN'S VOICE THAT BREAKS EONS OF RELIGIOUS TRAINING, OR PERHAPS IT IS SOMETHING WITHIN THE DEVOUT ZINTHIANS...WHATEVER THE CAUSE, EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD GAZES SKYWARD AS A RACE UNITED...

IN...THE...NAME OF THAR... WHAT...IS...HAPPENING?

6

AND THE ZINTHIANS WITNESS WHAT SPOL OF CYC WITNESSES --THE MIRACLE OF BIRTH!

MY FIRST MISSION AS A GREEN LANTERN IS A SUCCESS--! IT IS NOT PROPER, BUT I FEEL PRIDE IN ALL MY SOUL!

AND ON THE RAPIDLY WARMING SURFACE OF ZINTHA...

BEHOLD! THE NEW SUN CIRCLES OUR WORLD...AND BRINGS FORTH NEW LIFE! PRAISE THAR!

BUT THE MELTING SNOW...IT SHALL CAUSE GREAT FLOODING--!

NO, SCIENTIST, IT SHALL NOT --NOT AS LONG AS GREEN LANTERN IS HERE TO PROTECT YOU AND CHANNEL THE WATERS INTO NEW OCEANS!

AS NEW WARMTH COVERS THE PLANET, TWO HEROES RENDEZVOUS ONCE AGAIN...

YOUR WORLD IS RE-BORN; WE HAVE TRIUMPHED!

PRAISE BE TO THAR!...

PRAISE THAR, INDEED. I DO NOT KNOW IF YOU ARE AWARE OF THE TRUE HISTORY OF YOUR WORLD, LYSANDRA... AND I DO NOT WISH TO REFUTE YOUR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS...

...BUT YOUR PEOPLE'S DOCTRINE AGAINST SPACE TRAVEL BEGAN EONS AGO...

...WHEN THEY MIGRATED TO ZINTHA AFTER A SPACE WAR KILLED MOST OF YOUR RACE, THEY SWORE TO AVOID FUTURE WAR BY NEVER AGAIN TRAVELING TO THE STARS! THAR INVITED THEM TO LIVE HERE...

THAR? THEN YOU MEAN...

YES! THE CREATURE YOU CALL YOUR SUN IS, IN REALITY...A MOTHER NAMED THAR!

THEN IT IS TRULY SAID THAT "THAR SHINES ON US ALL!" YES, AND THE SON OF THAR! FAREWELL, SPOL OF CYC! ETERNAL GRATITUDE IS YOURS!

THE END

AND SO, BY THE WISDOM OF THE GUARDIANS, TWO GREEN LANTERNS HAVE MET, CONFRONTED AND FOUND THE GREATEST TWO PRIZES IN THE UNIVERSE -- FRIENDSHIP AND LIFE!

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PUSH HIM DOWN AGAIN, DUNNAL, HE'S NOT *DIRTY* ENOUGH YET!

HAHA! LOOK AT LITTLE *DUMPLING-FACE*, HE'S ALL WET!

YOU LET ME *GO*, KWELLA-- OR I'LL TELL MAMA!

AWW, LITTLE DUMPLING-FACE WANTS HIS *MA-MA*...

FOUR AGAINST ONE, IS IT NOW?

NOT VERY *FAIR*, TO BE SURE!

IT'S *GREEN LANTERN*! RUN!!

TH-THANK YOU, GREAT SIR... THOSE *PEEVILY* GIRLS, THEY'RE *ALWAYS* PUSHING ME AROUND.

I HATE 'EM! I HATE *ALL GIRLS*!

I KNOW JUST HOW YOU FEEL, MY LITTLE--

--I HAD MY SHARE OF WOMAN-TROUBLES TOO!

ESPECIALLY WHEN I WAS STILL A MERE *APPRENTICE*...

"I remember the proud day when my master, the OLD Green Lantern, said:

YOU HAVE DONE WELL WITH YOUR STUDIES, DEETER. NOW IT IS TIME TO TEST WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED!

THIS MESSAGE WILL TELL YOU WHERE THE PROBLEM LIES...

...THE RING OF POWER CAN HELP YOU SOLVE IT.

Noble Green Lantern, The people of South Ouig need your help! Please save us ~~tsz~~ from the Horrible Grazoum!

--Princess Oryna

"At last, at Last! I thought, as I arrowed toward South Ouig. I would show my master the Bravery of his student, oh My yes!

"all the suns had risen when I reaches the place, burning down on barren, empty fields...

"Pitiful were the cries of starving olosters as I neares the castle-- and then I saw It!

"NEVER had I heard such CRASHING and ROARING as the hideous creature beset the towers! For a moment I faltered...

"...then, grinching grimly, I prepared to do battle with-- THE HORRIBLE GRAZOUM!

GREEN LANTERN CORPS

"DEETER & DRAGONS!"

TODD KLEIN, STORYTELLER • DAVE GIBBONS, ILLUSTRATOR • JEANINE CASEY, COLORIST • COLÓN & WEIN, ILLUMINATI

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HO! THIS EMERALD BLADE WILL *TURN* THY ATTACK, UGLY ONE!

"So it DID, my little... right onto me!

HEEYAH!

FIMP!

HRRNK?

WOOSH

NO GOOD, VILE-BREATH--

HROWWW!

POINK!

-- FOR *MIGHTY DEETER* HAS A SHIELD AS WELL!

"So harrassed, the beast fled!

I HAVE *SAVED THE CASTLE, YOUR MAJESTY!*

DON'T STOP *NOW,* WHELP!

AFTER THE CREATURE-- IT HAS MY DAUGHTER, *ORYNA!*

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"Swiftly it flew, but my long-awaited power made me faster!

"In two yips I was speeding beside the beautiful princess...

GREEN LANTERN! WE HAVE TO *TALK!*

HANG ON, BRAVE ONE--

--I'LL SAVE YOU FROM THE BEAST!

"The wisdom of my master's lessons gave me a method...

YOU ARE STRONG, MONSTER--

--AND THAT STRENGTH I WILL USE TO *STOP* YOU!

OH!

SPLISH

AH... PRINCESS...!?

"For a moment, I feared the WORST... but as I carried her back, I saw she still lived!

'TIS DONE, YOUR MAJESTY!

AYE, AND NONE TOO GENTLY... BUT, NO MATTER. YOU USE THE RING *WELL,* YOUNGLING--

--THOUGH PERHAPS NOT *WISELY*. *TAKE HIM!*

THUD

"It was not the reward I had hoped for, oh my, no! When at last I awoke...

WH-WHAT HAPPENED..?

I WISH YOU'D *TELL ME*. I SEND FOR GREEN LANTERN, AND I GET *YOU* INSTEAD--!

I *AM* THE GREEN LANTERN -- AT LEAST FOR TODAY.

HUMPH! THE *GALL* OF HIM TO SEND A STUPID, CLUMSY *CHILD* TO DO A MAN'S WORK!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... DIDN'T I SAVE YOU FROM THE *HORRIBLE GRAZOUM?*

NO, IDIOT, YOU'VE *GIVEN* ME TO HIM! SAY HELLO TO MY FATHER, *KING* GRAZOUM!

BUT, THE *BEAST--!*

YES, YOU WERE A *HELP* TO ME THERE!

HE IS MY DAUGHTER'S *ALLY* IN THEIR PLAN TO STOP MY WORK CREWS.

SHE SEEMS TO THINK THE PEASANTS SHOULD BE OUT IN THE FIELDS, BUT I PREFER THEM *HERE*, BUILDING THE LARGEST CASTLE IN THE *WORLD!*

EH--?!

RRUMBLE!

6

" I wearied a sigh as I saw the stern face of my MASTER. Once again he had come to save his FOOLISH APPRENTICE!...

HRNK

BACK, FETID WORM! I HOLD THE RING NOW!

DO YOU, GRAZOUM? I THINK NOT.

AND AS FOR YOUR PROUD BUILDINGS--

--LET THEM BE NO MORE!

THE PRINCESS WAS RIGHT, GRAZOUM--YOUR STUBBORN PRIDE HAS CAUSED GREAT SUFFERING AMONG THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH OUIG.

LET THIS BE A WARNING: MEND YOUR WAYS, OR MY WRATH SHALL FALL EVEN MORE HEAVILY UPON YOU!

S-SO BE IT, MIGHTY ONE!

AND AS FOR YOU, DEETER--

--I SEE THAT, DESPITE MY TEACHINGS, YOU RUSHED IN WITHOUT THINKING!

I... I KNOW I DID POORLY, MASTER...

POORLY? HAH! HARDLY THE WORD FOR HIS INCOMPETENCE, NOT TO MENTION THE PAIN HE CAUSED MY BRAVE DROGAR.

I'M GLAD MY FRIEND FOUND YOU, GREEN LANTERN, TO FINALLY PUT THINGS TO RIGHTS!

YRNNK.

SO YOU SEE, MY LITTLE, *I TOO* HAD WOMAN-TROUBLES WHEN I WAS GROWING UP...

...BUT A FEW YEARS LATER, I WAS ABLE TO GET MY *REVENGE* ON THE SHARP-TONGUED PRINCESS!

YOU *DID*? HOW?

THERE YOU ARE, DEETER! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.

FINISHED YOUR SHOPPING, LOVE?

JUST THIS MINUTE. SORRY, CHILDREN, BUT WE HAVE TO *GO HOME* NOW.

BUT, DEETER, HOW DID--?

HO, THAT'S A TALE FOR *ANOTHER* DAY! SUFFICE IT TO SAY--

--I MARRIED HER!

HRNNK!

finis.

FOR THE VILLAGE, I BID YOU *GOOD HUNTING*, METALFINDER! BEWARE OF SHARP TEETH AND DARK CORNERS!

AYE, LORD MAYOR! LOOK FOR ME AT SUNFALL.

BE *CAREFUL*, LOVE--AND IF YOU FIND A *SMALL SHINY*...

I WON'T FORGET YOU, JAAD.

METALFINDER: IT IS BOTH HIS NAME AND HIS CRAFT.

COUNTLESS TIMES HE HAS MADE THIS JOURNEY ALONE...

...WARILY ENTERING THE MOLDERING RUINS OF THE *ANCIENT ONES'* ABANDONED CITY.

PERHAPS IT WAS GLORIOUS ONCE. *NOW* IT IS A PLACE OF PROWLING DEATH-- AND TO FIND METAL HE MUST GO DEEP INTO ITS DARKNESS!

HOW OFTEN HE HAS PLAYED THIS GAME WITH FATE, AND STILL FEAR *ROILS* HIS BELLY...

TODD KLEIN, SCRIPT & LETTERS

DAVE GIBBONS, ARTIST

JEANINE CASEY, COLORS

COLÓN & WEIN, EDITORS

GREEN LANTERN CORPS™

1

LATER, AS AFTERNOON SHADOWS LENGTHEN...

BAH! I *KNOW* THERE'S METAL NEARBY--BUT DRAG AND SCOUR ME IF I CAN *FIND* IT!

NEVER HAVE I GONE BACK EMPTY-HANDED. IT WOULD BE THE RUIN OF MY REPUTATION AND YET...

SHRISHH!

WHAT FALLS?

OH, *BLESSED* ANCIENT ONES! YOU SEND ME FAME AND FORTUNE FROM THE SKIES!

EVEN AS METALFINDER DARTS FORTH TO CLAIM HIS PRIZE...

SKKASHH!

MORE!?

ANCIENT ONES, THIS IS TOO MUCH!

IT IS A STRANGE CREATURE, ALIVE BUT UNCONSCIOUS.

A METAL RING! *THAT* WILL I TAKE =UH= IF ONLY =UH= I HAVE THE STRENGTH!

HE DOES NOT.

BUT SUCH A FIND IS TOO *RARE* TO LEAVE BEHIND!

BRING BACK =UNGH= A *SMALL* SHINY, THE LASS SAYS...

SOON...

LOOK, THE MONSTER WAKES!

OHHH... WHAT'S THIS!? MY RING-- LOST ITS CHARGE! ONLY ITS DEFENSIVE *RESERVE POWER* KEEPS THE RING ON MY FINGER--

WILL THE ROPES HOLD HIM?

HE IS STILL WEAK.

--AND *TRANSLATES* THIS ALIEN TONGUE FOR ME.

HMMHA... DON'T BE AFRAID--

--I WON'T *HARM* YOU! I AM *GREEN LANTERN*. I COME TO BATTLE AN EVIL INVADER OF YOUR PLANET, AND I NEED THAT BATTERY TO RENEW MY STRENGTH!

A FINE *STORY*, GREEN ONE...

...BUT THAT METAL IS *MINE* NOW, AND YOU ARE MY PRISONER! *YOU* ARE THE ONLY INVADER HERE.

YOU *MUST LISTEN*--

"--FOR, A SHORT WHILE AGO, I *FOUGHT* IT IN THE SKIES ABOVE YOU!

"IT IS A *DEADLY MACHINE*, ONE OF MANY CREATED BY A DISTANT RACE TO CONQUER AND COLONIZE NEW WORLDS FOR THEM...

UH-OH! A *SPIDER GUILD* SHIP!

"I HAVE DEFEATED OTHERS, BUT THIS *ONE* WAS TOO STRONG!

KRUNG! THE WHOLE SHIP IS *YELLOW*, THE ONE COLOR MY RING CAN'T TOUCH!

"MY POWER WAS WANING--

HOPE THERE'S TIME TO *RECHARGE* BEFORE--

"--AND AN UNLUCKY SHO SENT ME HURTLING TO *YOUR* PLANET...

AAPP!

"...WITH JUST ENOUGH ENERGY TO SAVE ME FROM DEATH!"

PLEASE...

...BRING THE BATTERY TO ME BEFORE IT'S *TOO LATE!*

ZLAKHOOM!

METALFINDER-- HE TOLD THE *TRUTH!!*

AAIIIEEE!

=ZZZ SENSORS TRACE YOU TO THIS AREA, LANTERN! ZZZ=

=ZZZ GIVE UP, OR WE WILL LEVEL THIS HABITATION! ZZZ=

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

THEY'LL BURN THE *VILLAGE* IF I DON'T COME OUT! *NOW* WILL YOU DO AS I ASKED?

NO REASON TO. KEEP A TIGHT HOLD, MEN... AS LONG AS *WE* KEEP THE METAL, *THEY* CAN HAVE THE CREATURE!

HMHA... ONE THING YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ...THAT *ENTIRE MACHINE* IS *MADE* OF METAL.

AFTER A FEW MINUTES...

=zzz WE HAVE ALLOWED THE PRIVATE TIME YOU REQUESTED, LANTERN zzz=

=zzz NOW WE RETURN FOR YOUR SURRENDER! zzz=

I AM READY.

=zzz THE GUILD IS ANXIOUS TO EXAMINE YOU zzz=

I IMAGINE THEY *ARE*, ROBOT...

THE DRONE SHIP'S ENGINES *SWITCH OFF* AS IT TOUCHES THE GRASSY FIELD--

... BUT I SUSPECT...

...THEY WILL REMAIN *UNSATISFIED* A WHILE LONGER!

--ONLY TO FALL *THROUGH* THE RING-CREATED FIELD TO THE ROCKS BELOW!

CRASH

THE RUSE COMPLETE, THE GREEN MAN RELAXES HIS *ILLUSION*--

--AND EVERY SCAVENGER RUSHES GREEDILY DOWN THE CLIFF!

SOON, AS THE DEPARTING GREEN GUARDIAN RISES ABOVE THE JOYFUL VILLAGERS...

THE FALL SMASHED THE SPIDER GUILD'S *CONTROL CIRCUITS*, DISCONNECTING THE ROBOT PILOT-- HE'LL BE NO DANGER TO THEM. HMM...

WHY DOES *THAT* ONE NOT JOIN IN THE SCAVENGING...?

METALFINDER! WHY ARE YOU LEAVING?

GO AWAY! YOU'VE DONE *ENOUGH* DAMAGE-- NOW, LEAVE ME ALONE!

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU AND YOUR WONDERFUL POWER HAVE PUT *ME* OUT OF A JOB! EVERYONE HERE HAS SO MUCH METAL NOW, ANYTHING *I* COULD FIND WOULD MEAN *NOTHING!*

I WILL SEARCH FOR ANOTHER VILLAGE WHERE I CAN BE *USEFUL* AGAIN. GO! TAKE THAT CURSED BATTERY *AWAY* FROM HERE!

HMMHA... I SEE YOUR *POINT*-- AND I'M SORRY TO HAVE CAUSED HARDSHIP. I'D LIKE TO *HELP* YOU IN RETURN FOR SETTING ME FREE.

WITH YOUR *ENERGY*, GREEN LANTERN, CAN YOU MAKE THEM *FORGET* YOU WERE HERE? CAN YOU TAKE AWAY THE METAL, MAKE THEM *POOR* AGAIN?

TAKE AWAY FROM MANY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ONE?

NO! NO, I *CANNOT* DO THAT.

THEN I WANT NOTHING MORE THAN TO SEE THE *LAST* OF YOU!

HE KNOWS FURTHER WORDS WOULD BE USELESS..

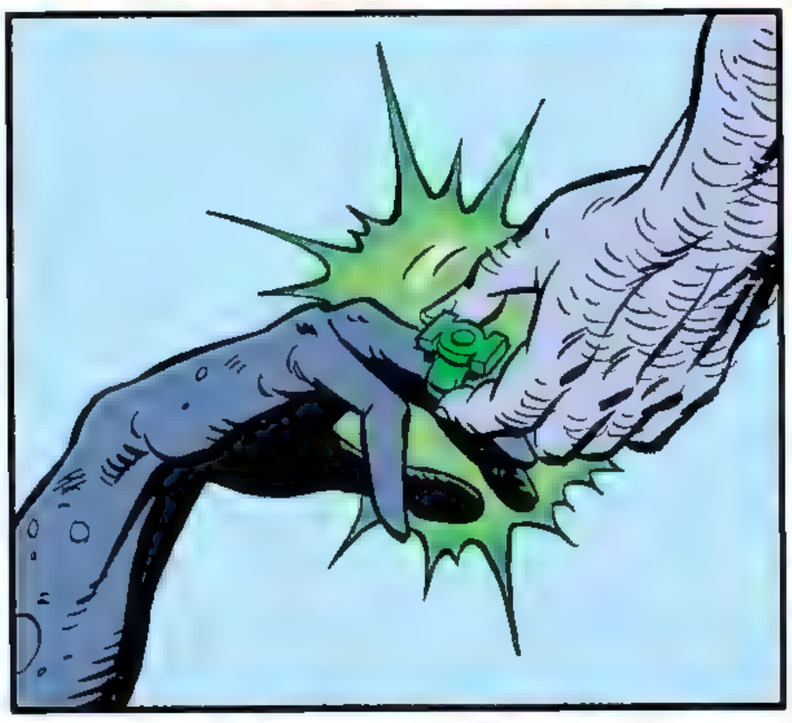
-- AND TAKES HIS LEAVE.

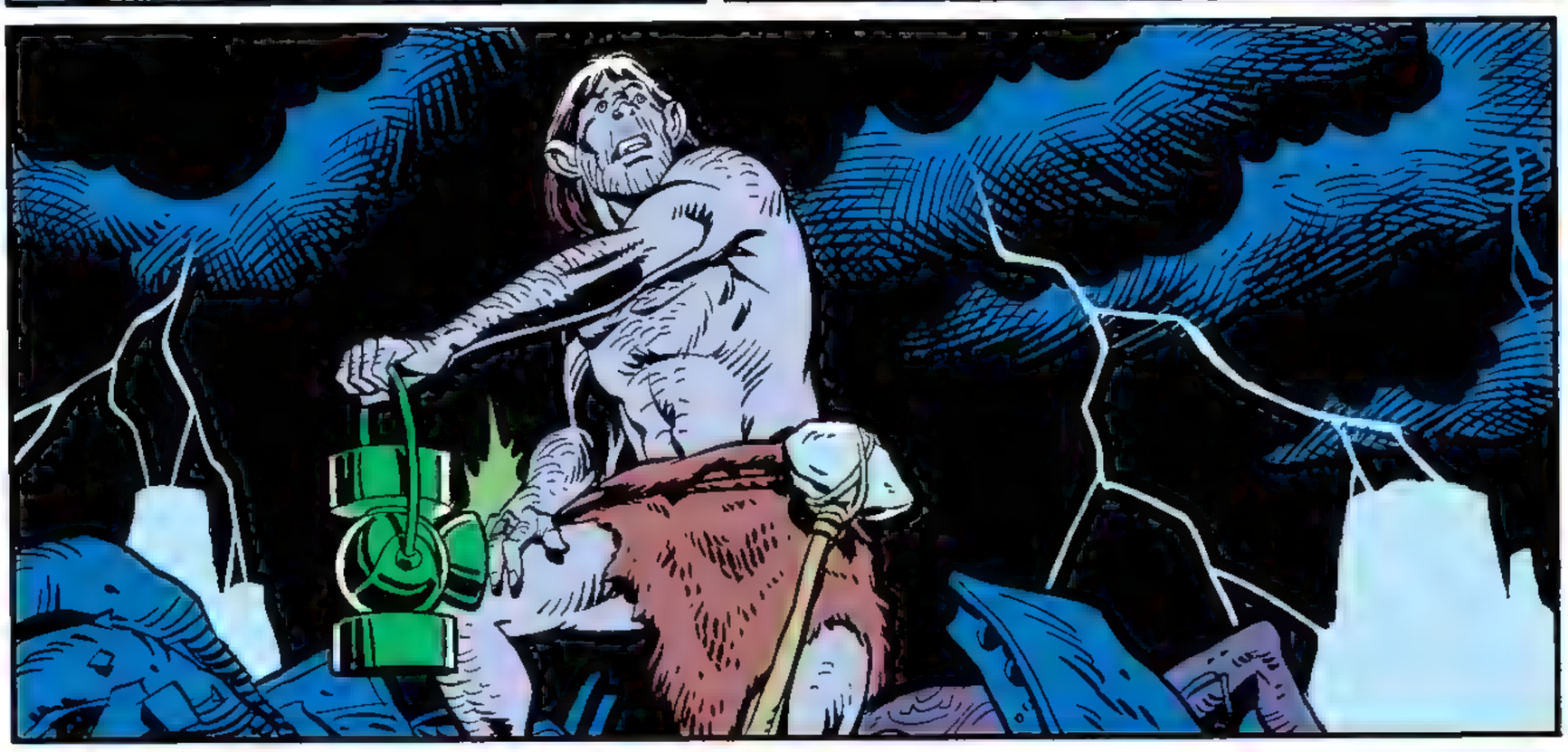
SOME DAYS DOING THE *RIGHT* THING IS THE HARDEST TASK OF ALL.

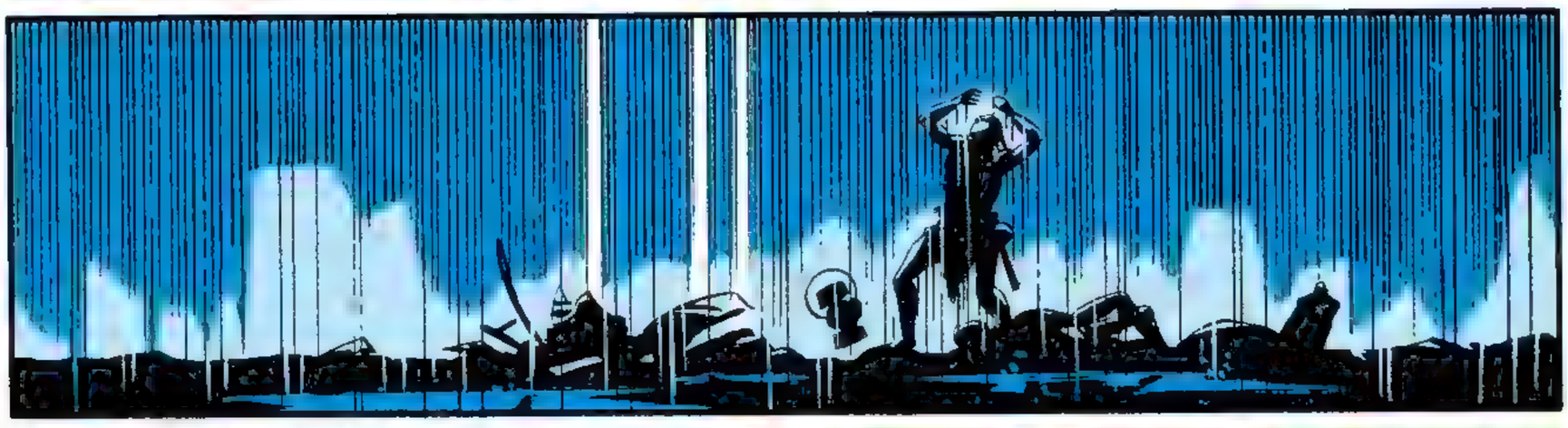
END

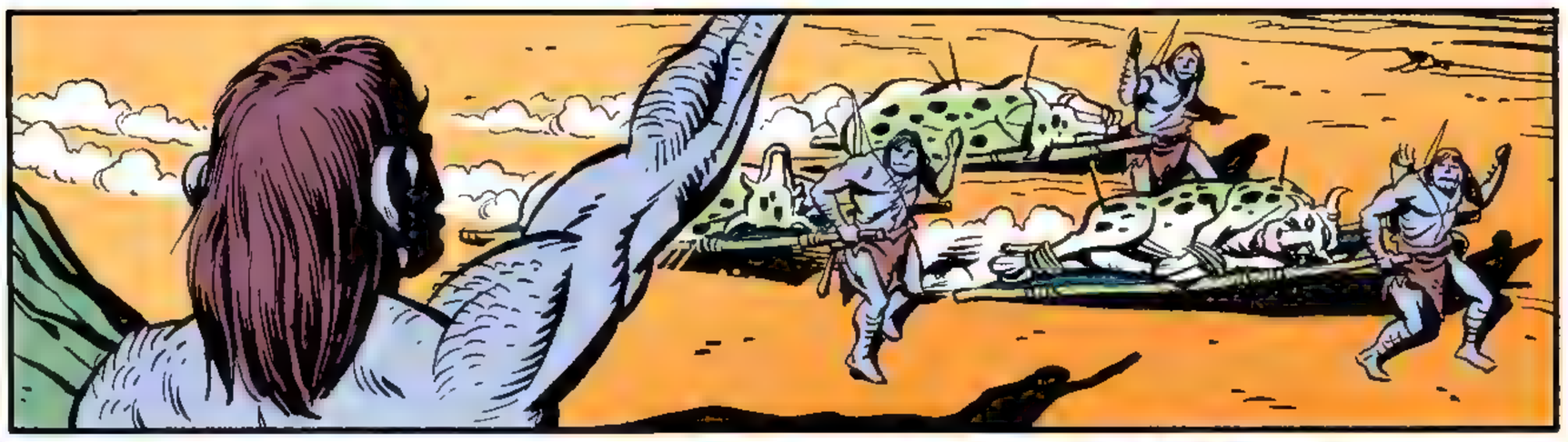
PLANET

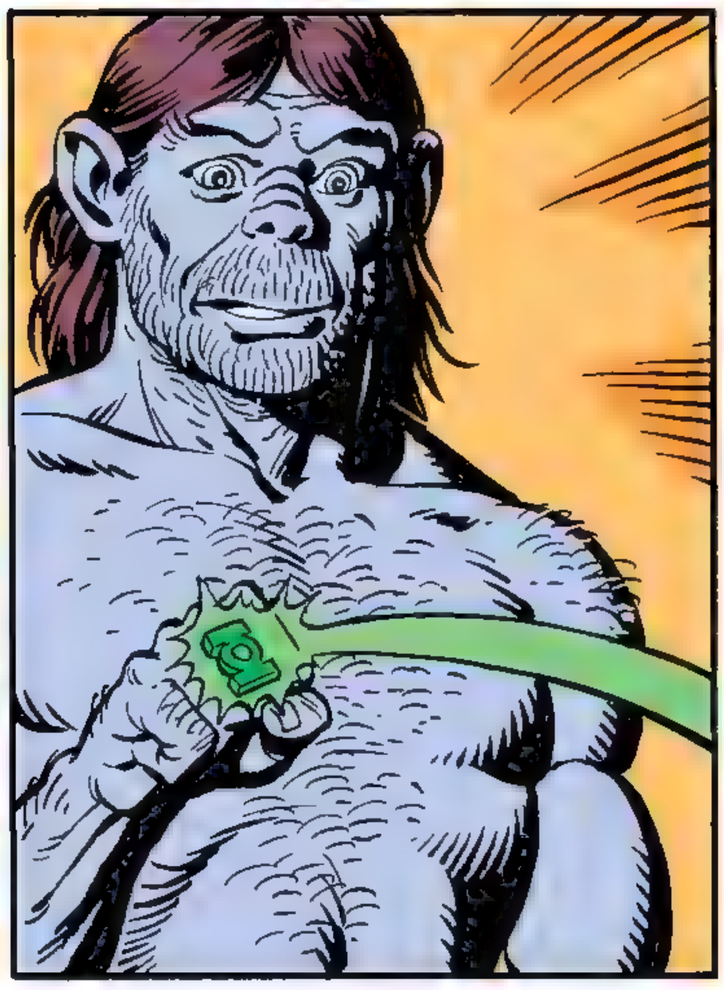
JOEY CAVALIERI
WRITER
DAVE GIBBONS
ARTIST
JEANINE CASEY
COLORIST
LEN WEIN
EDITOR

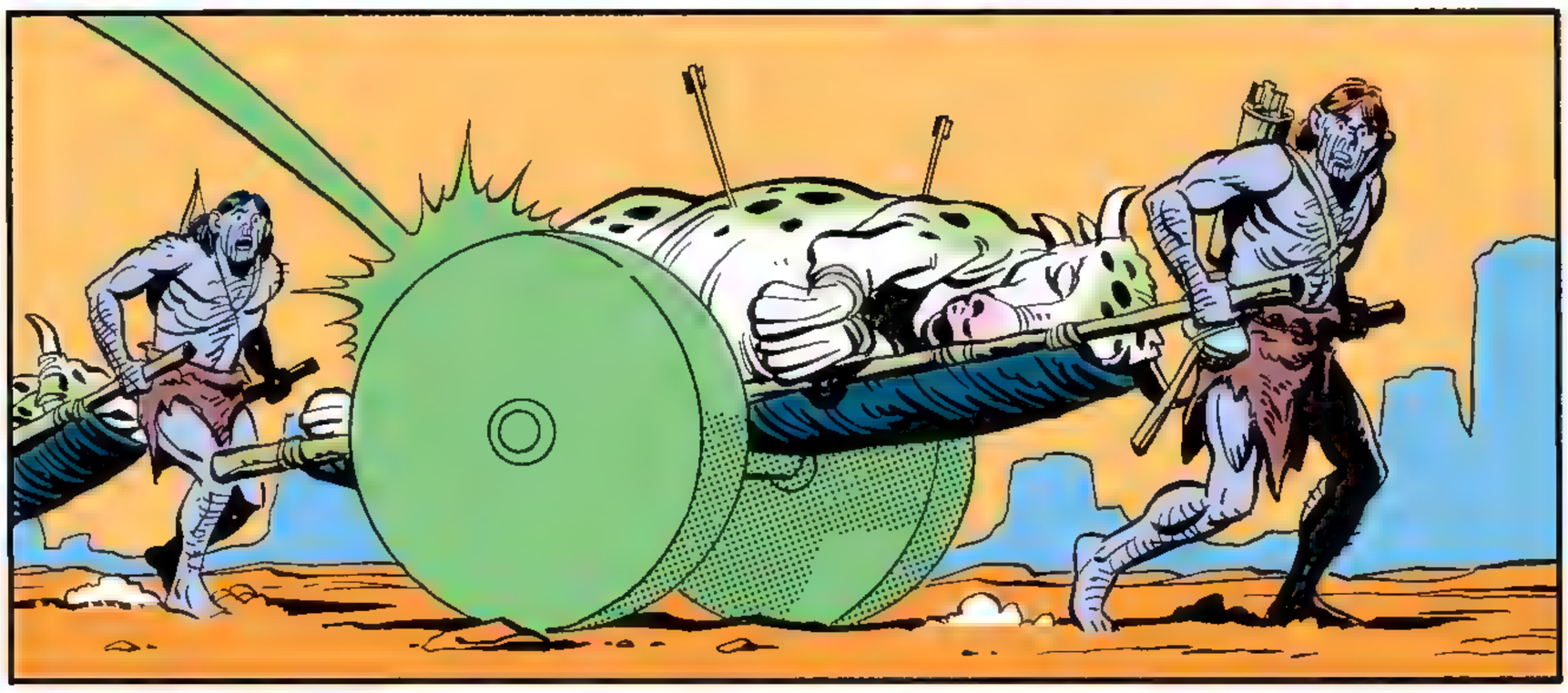


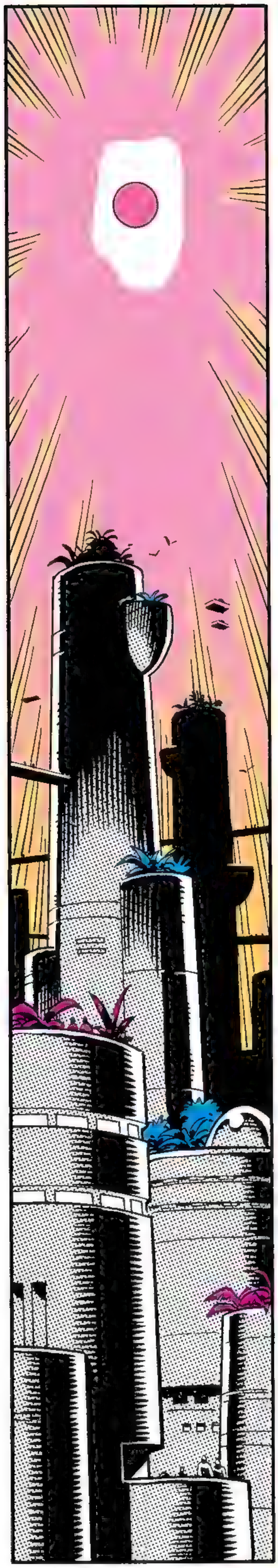


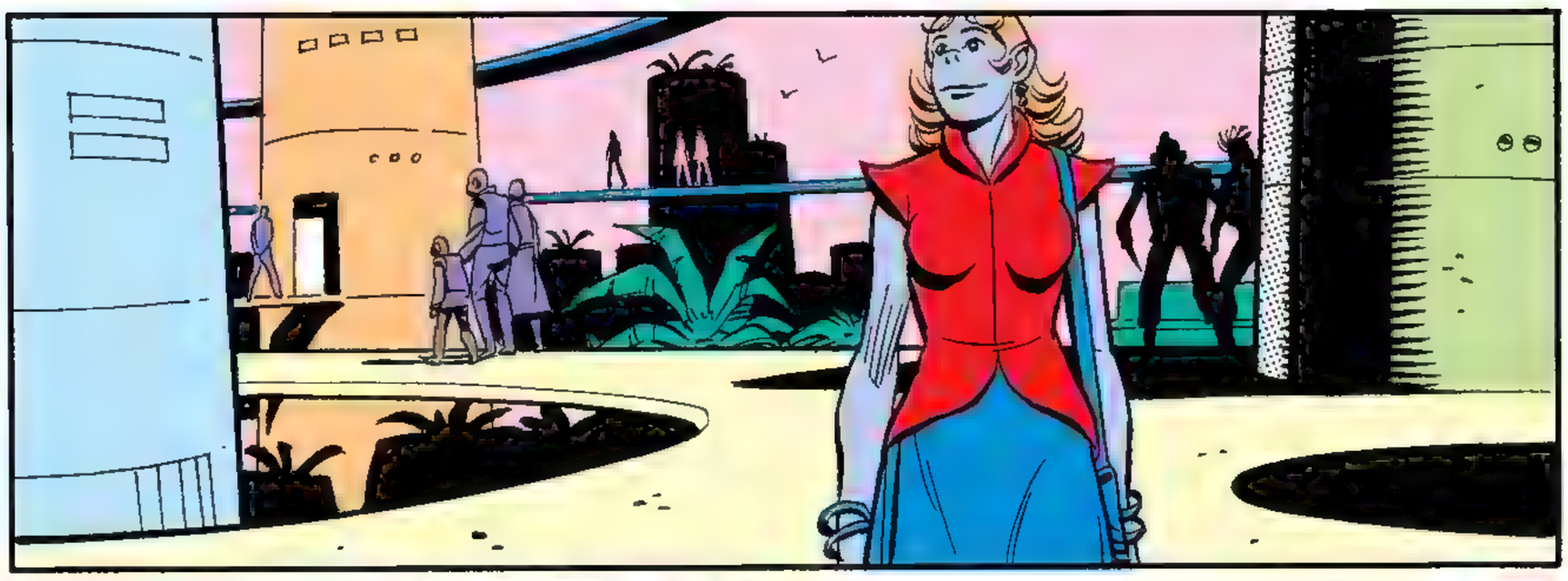


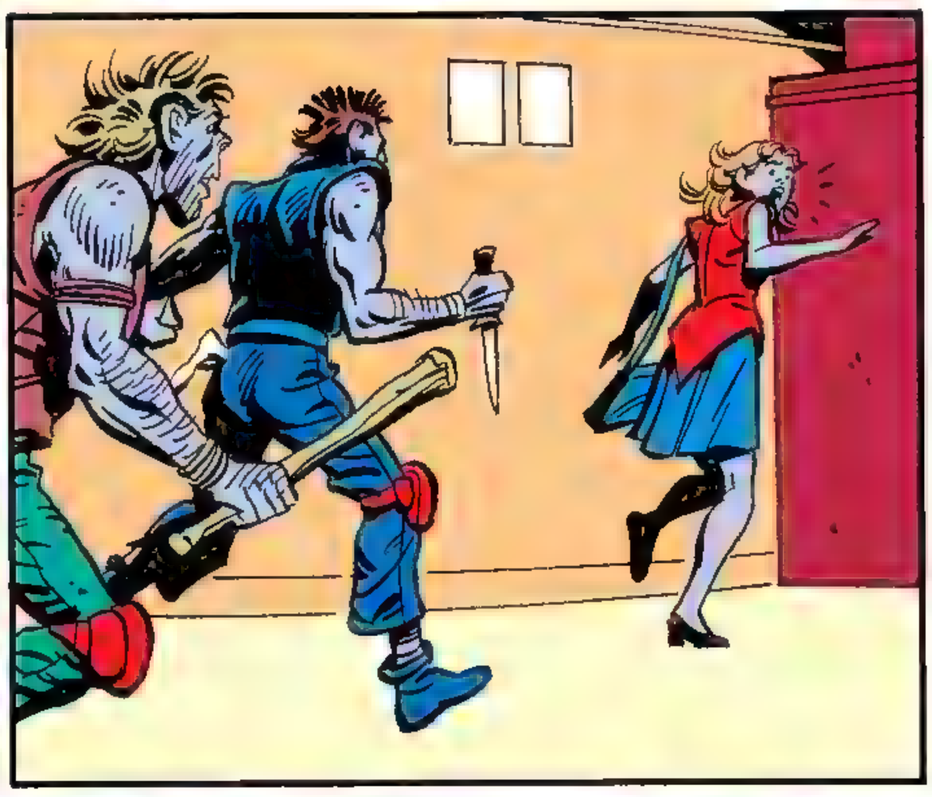


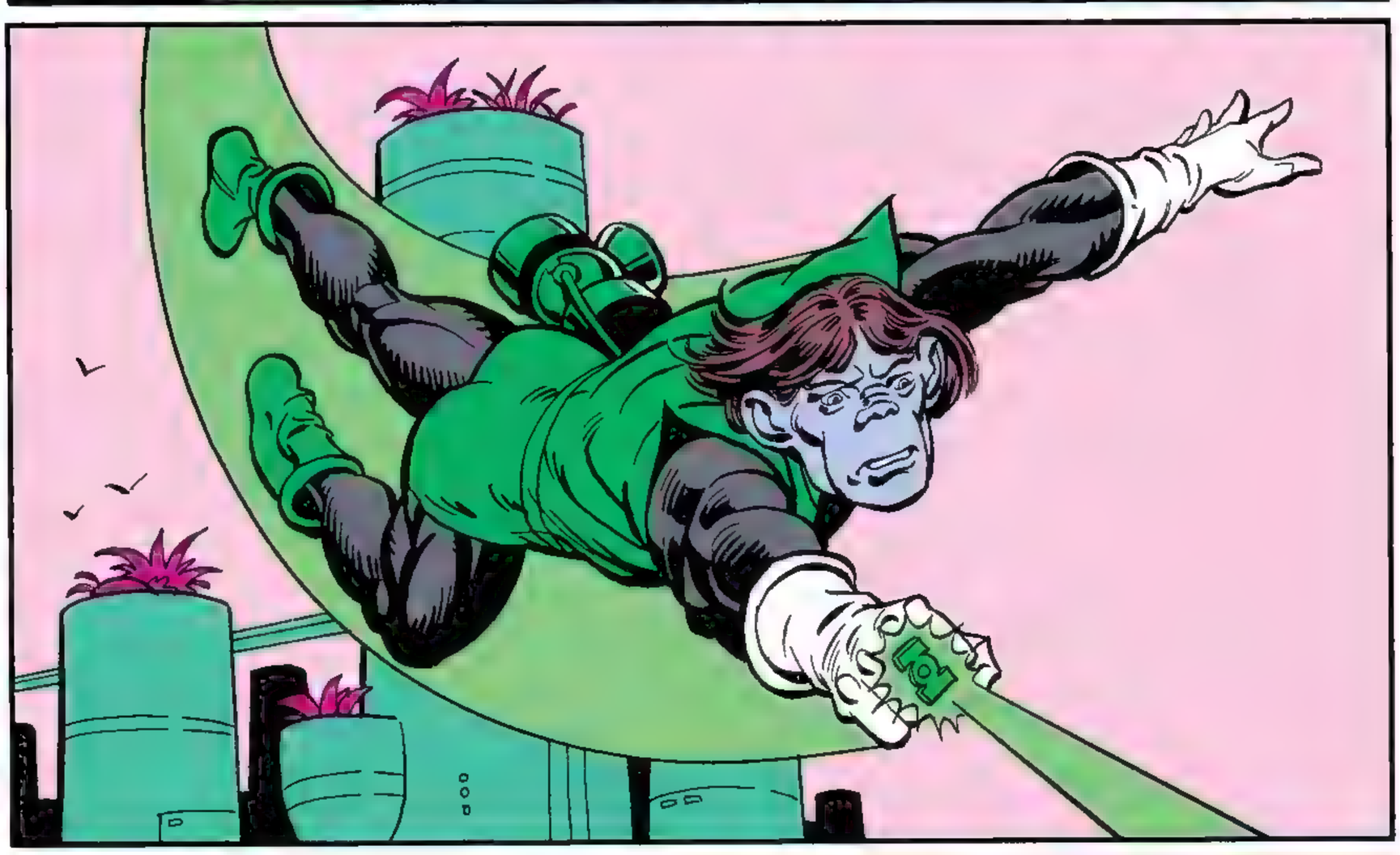








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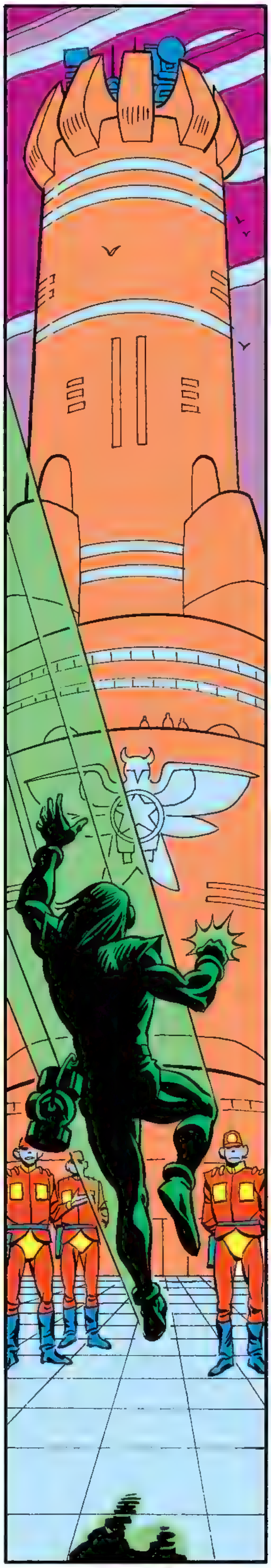

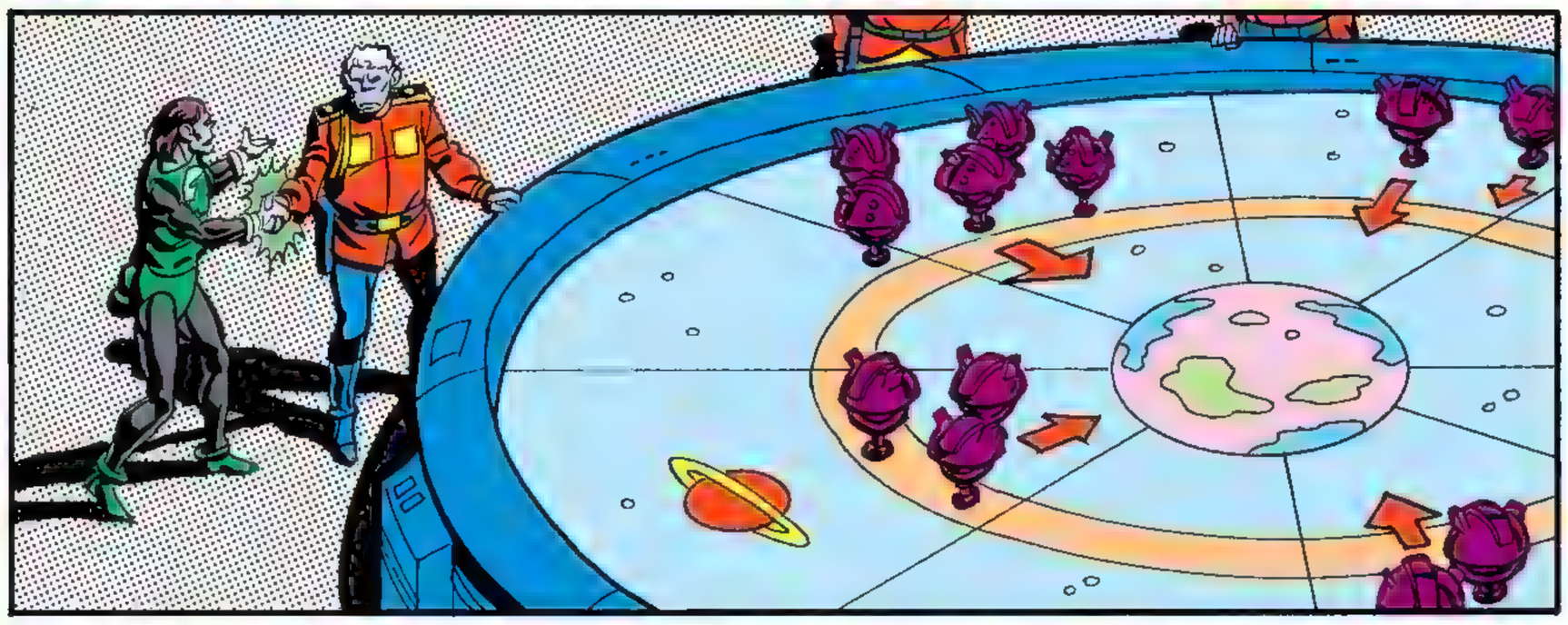

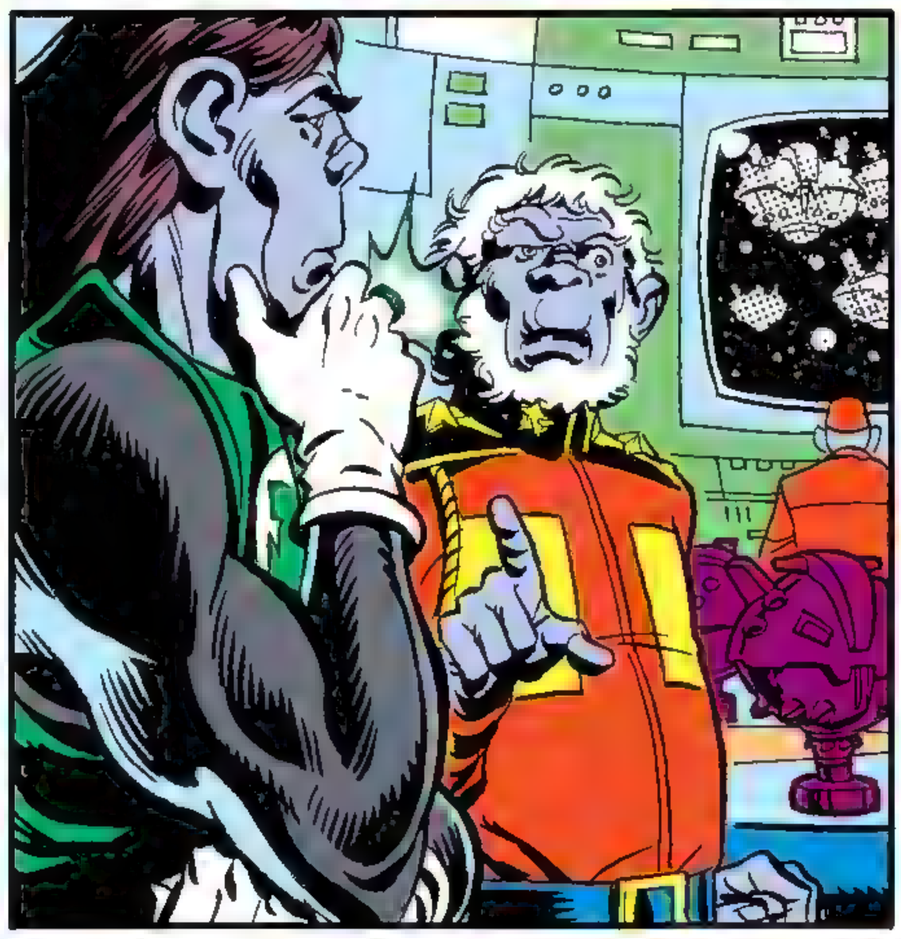

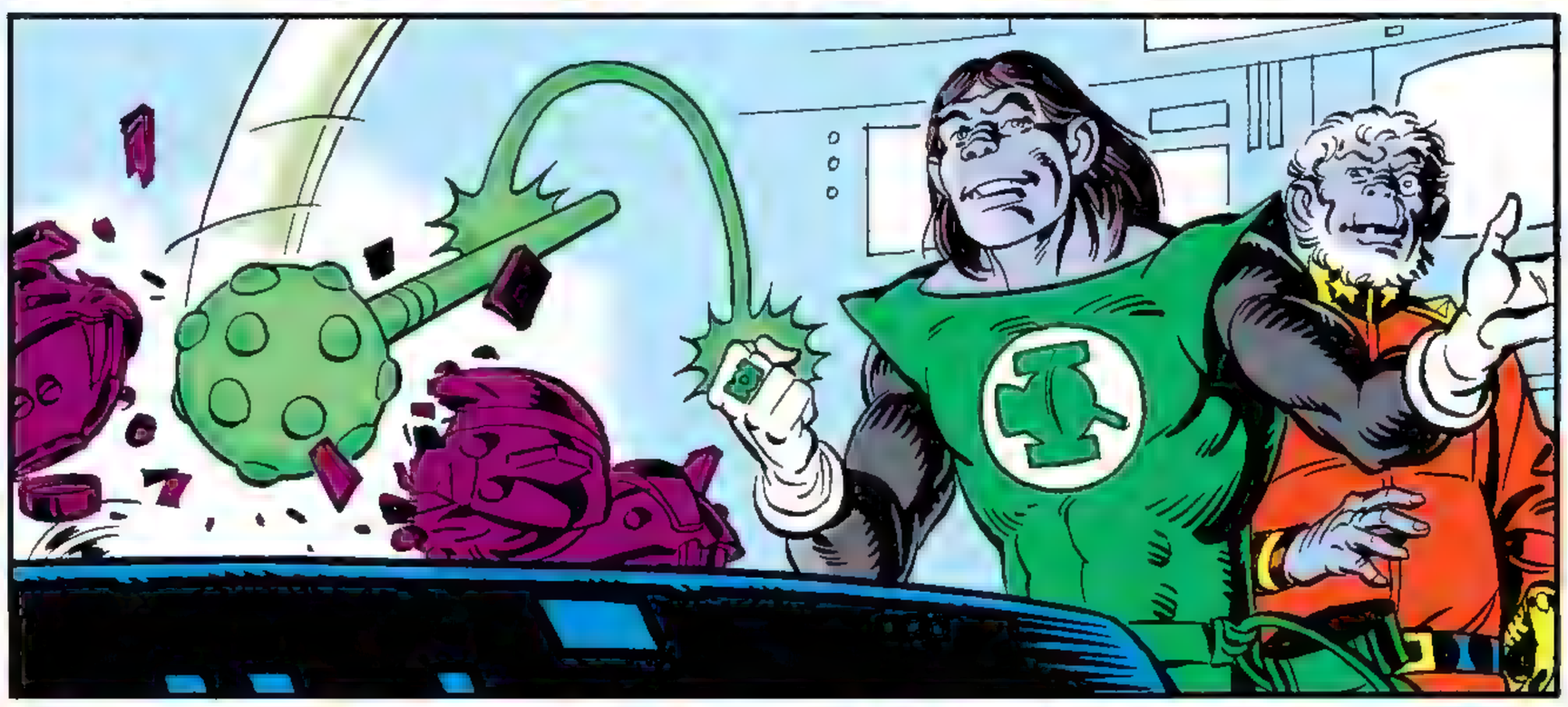

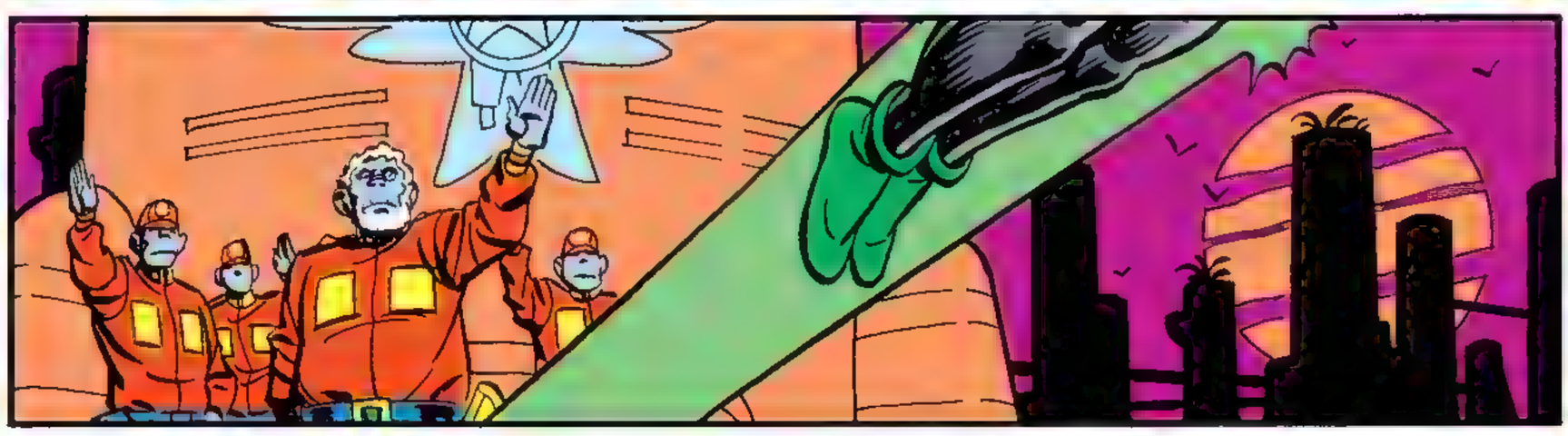

AND SO IT GOES ...

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS "FINAL DUTIES"

LEN WEIN *WRITER/EDITOR* * GIL KANE *ARTIST* * BEN ODA *LETTERER* * ANTHONY TOLLIN *COLORIST*

KWO VARRIKK'S FINAL DAY AS A MEMBER OF THE PROUD GREEN LANTERN CORPS BEGINS AS HAD ALL THE OTHERS--

THE RITUAL COMPLETED, HE PAUSES AT HIS WINDOW FOR A MOMENT, TAKING IN THE SUMMER-SWEET SCENT OF THE DISTANT D'BALLAH TREES AND THE CRYSTAL SONG OF THE FEATHERED WINDFLYTES IN THEIR BRANCHES...

EVEN FOR ONE WHO HAS TRAVERSED THE COSMOS, THERE COULD BE NO BETTER PLACE TO LIVE OUT THE REMAINDER OF ONE'S DAYS, HE SMILES--

--AND HE THINKS:

TIME ENOUGH FOR CONTEMPLATION LATER!

THERE IS MUCH TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE THIS PRECIOUS DAY IS DONE!

--WITH THE RISING OF HIS HOMEWORLD'S BUOYANT CRIMSON SUN, THE CHARGING OF HIS POWER RING, AND THE RECITING OF HIS ANCIENT SACRED OATH...

FIRST, KWO VARRIKK STOPS AT MINOS III, WIELDING HIS POWER RING TO PREVENT A HYDRO-TRAIN WRECK, AND THUS SAVE THOUSANDS OF LIVES--

--THEN HE FLIES ON TO MINOS IV!

THE PLANET IS ONCE AGAIN WRACKED BY VIOLENT QUAKES, HE NOTES--

--THREATENING THE PRIMITIVE CIVILIZATION WHICH STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE HERE...

KWO VARRIKK HAS RESCUED THESE PEACEFUL TRIBES BEFORE--

--BUT HE WILL NOT BE HERE TO DO SO AGAIN--

--AND THUS HIS CHOICE IS CLEAR...

THE TASK TAKES SLIGHTLY MORE THAN AN HOUR--

--AND WHEN IT IS AT LAST COMPLETED, KWO VARRIKK IS PLEASED...

--AND HE THINKS:

THEY WORSHIP ME... WITHOUT REASON.

I MERELY DO WHAT I WAS CHOSEN TO DO...

... NOTHING MORE... NOTHING SPECIAL...

MINOS IV IS SAFE NOW -- AT LEAST FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE--

KWO VARRIKK NOTICES THE ATTACKING BATTLE-FLEET AS HE APPROACHES THE PLANET KRODARR...

THE KRODARRANS AND VRYGOTHIANS ARE OBVIOUSLY AT WAR, HE SIGHS--

-- AGAIN!

HOW MANY TIMES HAS HE TRIED TO PUT AN END TO THIS CHILDISH CONFLICT, HE WONDERS?

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE HIS EFFORTS BEEN IN VAIN?

BUT NO BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED TODAY, SWEARS VARRIKK--

-- NO, NOT TODAY.

--AND HE THINKS:

I MUST REMEMBER TO TELL MY *SUCCESSOR* ABOUT THIS FOOLISH FEUD!

NETTING THE VRYGOTHIAN BATTLE-CRUISERS LIKE SO MANY FLOUNDERING *FISH*, KWO VARRIKK TOWS THEM *HOMEWARD*..

PERHAPS *HE* WILL BE *WISE* ENOUGH TO FINALLY PUT A *HALT* TO IT.

LEAVING THE VRYSOTHIANS WITH A STERN (BUT HE FEARS FRUITLESS) WARNING, KWO VARRIKK FLIES ON--

--TO THE PLANET ONCE CALLED BLOODWORLD, NOW KNOWN AS ELYSIUM.

HERE, TWO HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE, KWO VARRIKK HAD FOUGHT AND DEFEATED THE DESPOTIC WARLORD K'RUNAK K'ANN -- AND BROUGHT PEACE TO THIS TROUBLED WORLD...

NOW KWO VARRIKK'S DEED IS REMEMBERED AS THE STUFF OF LEGEND, IF AT ALL--

--AND HIS JOURNEY HERE IS A MELANCHOLY MISSION AT BEST.

THERE IS NO NEED ON ELYSIUM NOW FOR THE POWER OF GREEN LANTERN--

--OR IS THERE?

VARRIKK SPIES AN OLD MAN PUFFING IN HOPELESS PURSUIT OF THE RUNAWAY PLAY-THING, A CHILD-- OBVIOUSLY THE OWNER OF THE TOY-- STRUGGLING TO KEEP PACE BEHIND HIM...

FOR AN INSTANT, KWO VARRIKK REMEMBERS HIS OWN YOUTH--

--NOW A THING OF DISTANT MEMORY.

THEN HE HANDS THE CHILD THE ELUSIVE KITE-STRING--

--AND HE THINKS:

I DID MY WORK WELL HERE ON ELYSIUM.

AYE-- VERY WELL INDEED!

ON THE FINAL LEG OF HIS SECTOR-WIDE SOJOURN, KWO VARRIKK OBSERVES A MASSIVE METEOR-STORM STREAKING TOWARDS THE DENSELY-POPULATED PLANET CALLED BALGUS VI--

--AND USES THE AWESOME POWER OF HIS RING TO TURN THESE MIGHTY JUGGERNAUTS FROM THEIR PATH...

THIS COSMIC DEBRIS CAN BE PUT TO MUCH BETTER USE, HE DETERMINES--

--AS HE GUIDES THE HURTLING METEOROIDS ACROSS THE VOID TO A PLANET BARELY OUT OF ITS BIRTH THROES--

--WHERE HE PROTECTS THE STORM FROM THE DESTRUCTIVE FRICTION OF ATMOSPHERIC ENTRY--

--THEN DIRECTS THE MONSTROUS MASS INTO THE CHURNING HEART OF AN AZURE SEA--

--AND HE THINKS:

HOW INTRIGUING IT WOULD BE TO RETURN HERE ONE DAY--

--TO SEE WHAT MY SIMPLE EFFORTS HAVE WROUGHT!

AT LAST, KWO VARRIKK REACHES OA, GLEAMING JEWEL AT THE CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE, HOME OF THE IMMORTAL GUARDIANS--

--TO FIND HIS SUCCESSOR WAITING.

RETIREMENT IS NOT AN EASY THING FOR VARRIKK, BUT HE SURRENDERS HIS POWER RING GRACEFULLY--

--AND FEELS A TEAR COME TO HIS EYES AS HE WATCHES ANOTHER BEING RECEIVE THE AWESOME ENERGY THAT HAD BEEN HIS FOR SO MANY YEARS.

THEN THE CEREMONY IS OVER--

--AND HE KNOWS THE GUARDIANS HAVE ONCE AGAIN CHOSEN WELL.

SILENTLY, KWO VARRIKK TURNS TO LEAVE--

--AND A VOICE, QUITE LITERALLY OLDER THAN TIME, HALTS HIM IN HIS STEP.

IS KWO VARRIKK SATISFIED, THE GUARDIAN WONDERS?

HAVE HIS LONG YEARS OF SERVICE BEEN KIND TO HIM?

IS HE, AFTER ALL, TRULY HAPPY?

GENTLY, VARRIKK NODS--

--AND HE THINKS:

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL KITE.

END

ON THE SOLITARY PLANET RHOON, **WAR** HAS ERUPTED BETWEEN **SCIENTISTS** AND **SORCERERS!** CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE IS A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED **HOLLIKA RAHN.** TOGETHER WITH HER SIDEKICK **MIKKIN,** AND HER SCIENTIST FRIEND **TAHRK,** SHE STRUGGLES TO PREVENT AN ALL-OUT ATTACK... BUT ONLY THESE THREE KNOW THAT HOLLI IS NO MERE SORCERESS--SHE IS A **GREEN LANTERN!**

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS PRESENTS

GREEN MAGIC™

HOLLI, CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING TO **HELP** HIM?

NO, MIKKIN... TAHRK HAS TO FIGHT THIS BATTLE **HIMSELF!**

"ENEMY LINES!"

TODD KLEIN
SCRIPT & LETTERS

DAVE GIBBONS
ARTIST

ANTHONY TOLLIN
COLORS

LEN WEIN
EDITOR

1

ON THE *ISLE OF SORCERY*, A SMALL CREATURE LURKS...

THERE THEY ARE...

...HOPE THEY *REMEMBER* ME!

WHERE *HAVE* YOU BEEN, SKEEV?

HELLO, BRINDI. RHANDOR.

READY FOR OUR *PATROL* ASSIGNMENT?

ARE YOU PREPARED TO DEFEND OUR HOME FROM THE HATED SCIENTISTS IF, UNEXPECTEDLY--

--THEY *STRIKE?!*

WHOA, FIAN! I'M NOT THE ENEMY!

LISTEN, FRIENDS...

OVER THERE! SOMETHING IS *WATCHING* US!

WAIT! DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH!

IT'S MIKKIN-- HOLLI'S FRIEND! BUT SHE'S BEEN *EXILED!*

LEMME EXPLAIN...

2

IS HOLLI ALL RIGHT?

WE'VE HAD SOME *NARROW ESCAPES*, BUT WE'RE OKAY NOW.

IN FACT, I'VE BEEN SENT TO TELL YOU SHE WANTS TO MEET YOU FOUR AT *CRATER ISLE!*

I SEE...WELL, WE'VE OFTEN THOUGHT AHZUR'S DECISION TO *BANISH* HOLLI WAS WRONG.

MOMENTS LATER, AS A GREEN-RINGED "BIRD" SWOOPS DOWN TO RETRIEVE MIKKIN...

WE'LL STAND BY OUR DECISION!

WHUPS! NOW IF I CAN JUST STAY *ON* THIS THING...

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

THEY'LL COME, HOLLI!

WELL DONE!

I'LL USE THIS NEWLY DISCOVERED POWER OF MY RING TO MAKE ME *INVISIBLE*, AND GET THERE *FIRST*!

HEY, DON'T FORGET TO MAKE *ME* INVISIBLE, TOO!

ALL WE NEED NOW IS FOR *AHZUR* TO SPOT US...

BUT, DEEP WITHIN A SPELL-ENCIRCLED CHAMBER, THE SORCERERS' LEADER HAS *OTHER* MATTERS TO DISTRACT HER...

WHY HAVE YOU *CALLED* ME, VIHNOR, WHEN THE DANGER OF *DETECTION* IS SO GREAT?

AND WHY, NOW THAT YOU HAVE CONVINCED ME IT IS *NECESSARY*, DO YOU HESITATE TO ATTACK?

THE SCIENTIST'S *CHIEF MINISTER* RETURNS HER ANGER WITH HEAT OF HIS OWN...

IT'S THAT SORCERER GIRL YOU BANISHED--SHE DEFIED MY SOLDIERS, AND SEDUCED THE SON OF ONE OF MY MINISTERS!

BUT *WORSE* THAN THAT, I'VE LEARNED WHO HER *PARENTS* WERE! AND *YOU* TOLD ME THAT HER WHOLE FAMILY HAD DIED IN THE FLIER CRASH!

THE GIRL WAS SAVED BY OLD *AVIR*, POSSESSOR THEN OF THE *GREEN MAGIC*, WHO ADOPTED THE CHILD.

I COULD DO *NOTHING* THEN--BUT I'M SURE HOLLI KNOWS LITTLE OF HER PARENTS, *OR* OF YOUR PART IN THEIR END.

THE RISK IS TOO GREAT! SHE AND HER *ALLIES* MUST *DIE*!

ELSEWHERE...

THERE'S CRATER ISLE... JUST IN FRONT OF *ENEMY LINES*!

ARE YOU SURE IT'S NOT *BEHIND* THEM?

3

HERE THEY COME! DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DO THIS?

IT WOULD BE EASY TO *HATE* THEM FOR HELPING TO DESTROY MY FELLOW PILOTS...

...BUT THAT KIND OF THINKING HAS TO *STOP* SOMEWHERE.

HOLLI!

WE'VE BEEN *SO WORRIED* ABOUT YOU...!

CAREFUL, BRINDI!

I'M OKAY.

WE WANT TO *HELP* YOU--AND WE'LL START BY GETTING RID OF THAT HORRID *SCIENTIST* WHO GOT YOU IN TROUBLE!

NO!!

NOW, *LISTEN!* TAHRK IS MY FRIEND AND ALLY...

...AND HE *PROVED* IT WHEN HE REBELLED AGAINST HIS PEOPLE TO RESCUE MIKKIN AND ME FROM THE SCIENTISTS!

WE'RE *BOTH* FUGITIVES NOW...

...AND IF YOU'D HELP *ONE*, YOU MUST HELP THE OTHER!

IF WE *HAVE* TO INCLUDE THIS WEAK, POWERLESS BOY WE WILL, BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU *INSIST*.

POWERLESS, EH?

THEN STAND FORTH TO *THE CHALLENGE:* MY *WEAPONS* AGAINST YOUR *SORCERY!*

BUT, TAHRK-- SKEEV'S POWER IS OVER THE *EARTH ITSELF!*

LEMME OUTTA HERE!

EVEN BEFORE SKEEV CAN SUMMON HIS ARCANE FORCE, THE SCIENTIST STRIKES--

--BUT TO NO AVAIL! A MOMENT LATER, THE EARTH-TIDE RISES TO SMOTHER HIM!

ZZZOWW!

A SWIFT ESCAPE...

...BUT A THOUGHTLESS ONE!

HUH?! OH NO, MY GUN!

I'VE GOT YOU, SCIENTIST!

...THEN WHY ARE YOU AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HOLE?

WHOOOOSH!

YEEOWW!

GIVE UP?

UHHH...

IS THAT SO?...

5

NOT UNTIL I DO THIS!

EEEYAHH!!

WHUMP!

TAHRK! ARE YOU OKAY?

OH, SKEEV!

THEY'VE MURDERED EACH OTHER, I JUST KNOW IT...!

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT WAS A GOOD MOVE--JUST NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

NEXT TIME WE'LL TRY IT ON YOUR GROUND ...IF YOU CAN FIND ANY.

THIS ISLE IS ALL WE HAVE FOR THE MOMENT...

...BOTH SIDES SEEM TO HAVE OVERLOOKED IT!

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT...?

6

ON THE SOLITARY PLANET RHOON, *WAR* HAS ERUPTED BETWEEN *SCIENTISTS* AND *SORCERERS!* STRUGGLING TO *PREVENT* FURTHER BLOODSHED IS *HOLLIKA RAHN,* WITH HER SIDEKICK *MIKKIN* AND SCIENTIST FRIEND *TAHRK.* ONLY THESE THREE KNOW HOLLI IS NO MERE SORCERESS...SHE IS A *GREEN LANTERN!*

FOUR OF HOLLI'S CHILDHOOD COMPANIONS FROM THE *ISLE OF SORCERY* HAD AGREED TO *MEET* HER AT THIS NEUTRAL ZONE: FLAME-WIELDING *FIAN,* WATER-MAGE *BRINDI,* EARTH-POWERED *SKEEV,* AND *RHANDOR,* MASTER OF BEASTS! THEN, JUST WHEN THEIR SUSPICIONS HAD BEEN *ALLAYED...*

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS PRESENTS

GREEN MAGIC™

WITH ME, SORCERERS--TO THE *ATTACK!*

THE SCIENTISTS *INVADE* OUR SANCTUARY, SKEEV!

COME, MIKKIN--

--IF BRINDI'S RIGHT, OUR EFFORTS TO AVERT THIS WAR ARE *DOOMED...!*

CAREFUL, HOLLI--THAT SUB IS *FULLY ARMED!*

"ENEMY LINES!"

PART TWO

TODD KLEIN, STORY & LETTERS
DAVE GIBBONS, ARTIST
ANTHONY TOLLIN, COLORIST
LEN WEIN, RINGMASTER

1

RELAX, TAHRK-- THOSE WEAPONS WILL NEVER BE USED!

SKRUNCH!

H-HELP--!!

ONCE AGAIN, HOLLI IS *OVERWHELMED* BY THE *SAVAGERY* OF THE SORCERERS' ASSAULT! HOW THE WAR HAS *CHANGED* THESE HAPPY, CAREFREE FRIENDS OF HER YOUTH...

LOOK, HOLLI! ARE THEY *REALLY* GONNA--?

NOT IF *I* CAN HELP IT!

WAIT! SKEEV, FIAN-- *DON'T KILL HIM!*

...OHHH...!

CAN'T YOU SEE HE *ISN'T FIGHTING BACK?!*

TAHRK, PUT THAT *GUN* AWAY, AND HELP ME GET HIS HELMET OFF.

②

STAY READY, SORCERERS! NEVER KNOW WHAT--*HUH?!*

MY SON... I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU... WANT TO HELP...!

WHY DID *YOU*... ATTACK ME...?

F-FATHER! I DIDN'T *KNOW* YOU WERE...

I... NEVER *MEANT* TO--

--*HURT* ANYONE...

THUD

THANK YOU FOR... SAVING ME, SORCERESS.

ALL THE WAY HERE FROM OUR CAPITAL CITY I HAVE NURSED *ANGRY, BITTER* FEELINGS FOR THE WAY YOU HAVE *TORN APART* MY FAMILY--TAKEN MY SON, AND MY REPUTATION!

I SEE NOW THAT I *MISJUDGED* YOU.

POOR TAHRK... HE WASN'T FAKING! HE *MEANT* THAT ATTACK!

YES, BRINDI-- I'D SWEAR NEITHER OF THEM WAS *EXPECTING* THIS!

HE WAS AS SURPRISED AS *WE* WERE, RHANDOR!

HOW DID YOU EVER *FIND* US? AND, UM...

WHY DID I TAKE THE RISK? I HAD LITTLE *CHOICE*, GIRL...

NEVER THOUGHT *I'D* BE FEELING SORRY FOR ANY *SCIENTIST*...!

3

"ONCE VIHNOR *DISMISSED* ME IN DISGRACE FROM THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...

GO, FATHER OF A TRAITOR, BEFORE EVIDENCE OF YOUR *OWN* GUILT COMES TO LIGHT!

"... I KNEW MY FREEDOM IN THE CAPITAL WOULD BE *SHORT-LIVED!* I TRIED TO REACH MY PRIVATE OFFICE, WHERE I KEPT CERTAIN *DOCUMENTS* THAT HAD PROTECTED ME THUS FAR...

"... BUT FOUND THE SCIENCE POLICE *WAITING* TO CATCH ME THERE!

"LUCKILY I HAD ALREADY PLANNED MY *ESCAPE ROUTE* --

"-- THROUGH MAINTENANCE TUNNELS DOWN TO THE *SUBMARINE DOCK* FAR BELOW THE CITY!

HUMMMMM

"AN ILLEGAL *SONIC DISRUPTOR* SUBDUED THE SURPRISED GUARDS...

"... AND THE STOLEN SUB'S OWN *TORPEDO* PROVIDED THE TIME I NEEDED TO ESCAPE PURSUIT!

"I, TOO, WAS ONCE A *PILOT*, YOU SEE... AND I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE *LESSONS* OF THAT REGIMEN!

"FOR A TIME I DRIFTED AIMLESSLY, NOT KNOWING *WHERE* TO TURN. THEN, WHILE MONITORING A *SURFACE SHIP* BROADCAST..."

--WE STILL CAN'T *SEE* ANYTHING, SQUAD LEADER... BUT WE HAVE A *BLIP* ON THE SCANNER! SUSPECT *EQUIPMENT* FAILURE, SIR.

HMMM... MY SCANNER SHOWS IT TOO! COULD IT BE...? *YES!* IT *MUST* BE THAT INFERNAL SORCERESS!

THEN, AS I NEARED *THIS* SMALL ISLAND, I INTERCEPTED *ANOTHER* MESSAGE--

--ONE THAT WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT TO *YOU*, HOLLIKA! BUT, I WANT MY *SON* TO HEAR IT AS WELL...

④

I'M SORRY, FATHER...CAN YOU FORGIVE ME?

NO NEED, SON! I *KNOW* YOU COULDN'T TELL IT WAS ME...I WAS MERELY SHOCKED THAT YOU WOULD *STRIKE OUT* WITH SUCH ABANDON.

THIS PATH THAT I'VE CHOSEN -- IT GOES AGAINST *EVERYTHING* I'VE BEEN TAUGHT. AND IT KEEPS GETTING *HARDER!*

IT HAS BEEN DIFFICULT FOR *BOTH* OF US, TAHRK ...BUT NOW WE CAN WORK *TOGETHER* FOR THE *PEACE* WE BELIEVE IN.

COME, WE'LL REJOIN THE OTHERS. THERE ARE THINGS YOU MUST *ALL* KNOW!

I'VE SUSPECTED THE *REASONS* BEHIND THIS WAR FOR SOME TIME. VIHNOR INSISTS WE DESPERATELY NEED THE *GLOWSTONE* BURIED BENEATH THE *ISLE OF SORCERY.* THAT IS A *LIE.*

I RECENTLY GAINED ACCESS TO RESTRICTED FILES SHOWING WE HAVE A *SURPLUS* OF GLOW-STONE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT *GAME* THE CHIEF MINISTER IS PLAYING--

--BUT I BELIEVE IT INVOLVES *YOUR* PARENTS!

WHAT?! BUT THEY DIED *LONG AGO* IN A FLIER CRASH!

SO I GATHERED FROM THE GARBLED MESSAGE I INTERCEPTED...

"...A MESSAGE FROM VIHNOR TO SOMEONE ON THE *ISLE OF SORCERY* ITSELF!"

BAH! SCIENTISTS HAVE *ALWAYS* MANIPULATED US-- BUT FOR ONCE WE HAVE A CHANCE TO FIND OUT *WHY!*

WHATEVER YOUR PLANS ARE... *COUNT US IN!*

SOON...

LET'S SEE IF I *GET* ALL THIS... TAHRK'S DAD AND THE SORCERERS WILL GO TO THE ISLE OF SORCERY, WHILE WE THREE GO BACK TO THE *MAINLAND*...?

GEE, HOLLI, COULDN'T WE JUST STAY *HERE* UNTIL THIS WHOLE THING BLOWS OVER?

NO, LITTLE ONE...

...FOR NOW, AT LAST, WE SEE SOME HOPE OF *STOPPING* THIS EVIL CONFLICT--*IF* WE CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT *VIHNOR'S* SCHEMES!

FAREWELL, DEAR FRIENDS!

BESIDES, MIKKIN, WHAT WOULD YOU *DO* ON THIS TINY ISLAND?

YEAH...GUESS I'M TOO *FURRY* TO GET A TAN, HUH?

EVEN AS THEY DEPART, THE SCIENTISTS' CHIEF MINISTER MAKES *ONE MORE* FURTIVE COMMUNIQUÉ TO *AHZUR*, LEADER OF THE SORCERERS!

I SEE...THE *TRACER DEVICE* YOU PLACED ABOARD THAT SUBMARINE SHOWED FORMER MINISTER *TIMIHR* WAS NEARING *MY* DOMAIN?

UNTIL THE SIGNAL *FAILED*, BLAST IT!

YET I HAVE FAITH IN *YOUR* POWERS, AHZUR! FIND HIM. *FIND THEM ALL!* THEY CANNOT *EVADE* US FOREVER!!

THE END...FOR NOW!

"FIGGERED I BEEN TO EV'RY *HELLHOLE* IN THE UNIVERSE... BUT I WAS *WRONG!* AIN'T BEEN TO A *ONE* 'TIL I HIT *LAWREL-HARDEE XI* --"

--A FOULER PIT OF DEPRAVITY THAN HAS ANY RIGHT TO BE!

=twitter= NO SEE *YOU* DEPRIVED OF =squawk!= ...ANY *PLEASURES!*

GREEN LANTERN CORPS

AYE, NOW *THAT* IS THE TRUTH! BUT IN ALL ME YEARS ABOARD RUST-BUCKETS OF *EV'RY* DESCRIPTION, THE *BLOODIED CLAW* IS...IS...

OH, BLESS ME *TWICE* AND SEND ME A'RUNNIN'! *LOOK* WHAT JUST SCURRIED IN, FRIEND *TWFFFLETOOTOOT!*

=brawk!= AYE... *TROUBLE* WITH A BUSHY TAIL!

ONE NIGHT IN A BAR ON LAIREL-HARDEE XI

PAUL KUPPERBERG
WRITER

DON NEWTON
ARTIST

JOHN CLARK
LETTERER

ANTHONY TOLLIN
COLORIST

LEN WEIN
EDITOR

IF *THAT* AIN'T THE GOSPEL! LITTLE FELLA LIKE HIM OUGHT'A KNOW *BETTER'N* TO VENTURE INTO PLACES LIKE THIS!

NO...≥tweet≤... *SEEM* SCARED!

HEH! DON'T, DO HE?

FIGGER 'IM TO BE EITHER REAL *BRAVE*--

--OR STUPIDER'N ANY CRITTER'S GOT THE *RIGHT* TO BE!

≥tweet!≤ HEAD HANDED TO HIM! ≥squawk!≤ HEAD HANDED!

WELL, NOW, *ORD'NARALLY*, I MIGHT BE INCLINED TO *AGREE* WITH YOU, TWFFFLE.

NOT *NOW*, THOUGH. LOOKIT HIS EYES, BOY--

--THEM'S *MEAN* EYES, TWFFF!

THET AIN'T NO CRITTER TO *MESS* WITH!

NO MAKE... ≥brawk!≤ *LAUGH*, GRONK! JUST *FURBALL*! ≥squawk!≤

PFFT! FIFTY *CREDITS* SEZ I'M *RIGHT*, BY GOD!

≥squawk!≤ *SIXTY!*

YER *ON!*

ARE YOU THE ONES LATE OF THE PIRATE-CRUISER *BLACK-HEART POGO*?

AND WHAT BE IT TO *THEE*, RODENT? TAKING A CENSUS?

VA

ZO!

I *ASKED* IF YOU WERE THE... MMMPFFPH!

THUD!

TAKE OFF!

CAN'T YE SEE I'M TRYIN' TO PLAY *VARFRUMMY*, HAIRTHING?

HE'S GETTING *UP*, TWFFFLE! AYE, YOUR *SIXTY* CREDITS ARE AS GOOD AS IN ME POUCH NOW!

≥squawk!≤ NO COUNT KLYLERKS UNTIL GROOKS HAVE HATCHED! ≥squawk!≤

HEH HEH! BEEN HATCHIN' ALL ALONG, TWFFFLE!

DON'T YOU KNOW WHO THAT'S GOTTA *BE*?

I OFFERED YOU GENTLEMEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS *POLITELY* AND QUIETLY...

BUT SINCE YOU *INSIST* ON IT--

-- I'M WILLING TO USE ALL THE FORCE NECESSARY!

WHO'S FROWIN' *HAIRPEEZES...?!*

HEY, ME CARDS!

GIMME MY CREDITS, SCUM!

OFFAME!!

3

GUESS YOU AIN'T NEVER BEEN TO THE *H'LVEN SYSTEM*... WAY 'CROSS THE GALAXY!

THERE'S A WHOLE *PLANET* OF THEM HAIRY BUGGERS THERE--!

DON'T KNOW'A THEIR OLD *TRADITION* THEN, EH? *HEH HEH!*

SO... >squdwrk!<... WHAT?

WINNIN' THAT BET'S LIKE TAKIN' BNHERTY FROM A FRAMIS!

>brdwrk!< GET... >tweet! tweet!< ... *ON* WITH IT!

BZZZZZT!

AYE, AYE! THE *TRADITION!* MAYBE THEY DON'T *LOOK* MUCH...

BUT FOR 'BOUT AS LONG AS CAN BE RECOLLECTED...

THEM BUSHY-TAILED CRITTERS IS BEEN FILLIN' THAT SECTOR'S QUOTA FOR BEIN'...

GREEN LANTERNS!

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE GUARDIANS OF OA... I COMMAND YOU TO STOP!

IT... IT WEARS THE COLORS OF THE *CORPS!*

STINKIN' RODENT'S A *LANTERN!*

GIMME MY *CREDITS*, YOU SCUM!

MY BUSINESS IS WITH THESE BEINGS!

THE REST OF YOU *LEAVE* NOW OR I...

OH!

THEY'RE CERTAINLY *OBLIGING!*

BUT I SEE *YOU* NEED A LITTLE *HELP* IN BEING *CONVINCED* TO STAY PUT!

4

--AND I'LL GLADLY DO *MORE* THAN MERELY RESTRAIN YOU IF NEED BE!

YOUR KIND DESERVES LITTLE BETTER--

"--AFTER YOUR MURDEROUS DEEDS OF YESTERDAY, IN THE SECTOR OF SPACE UNDER *MY* PROTECTION..."

FRENG! A PIRATE CRUISER FIRING ON A *LUXURY LINER!*

I HAVE TO PUT THE PIRATE'S SHIP OUT OF *COMMISSION* BEFORE I CAN SEE TO THE LINER--

--BUT IT'S ONLY GOT *SECONDS* LEFT BEFORE IT LOSES *ALL* ITS ATMOSPHERE!

"I *COULD* HAVE PUT THOSE SECONDS TO GOOD USE... *EXCEPT* FOR YOUR *ESCAPE POD...*

"...KNOCKING ME *SENSELESS* FOR LONG MOMENTS ON YOUR FLIGHT FOR *FREEDOM!*

"I COULD NOT STOP YOU THEN*... NOR COULD I EVEN THINK STRAIGHT--

"--TO ACT IN TIME TO SAVE THE LINER'S PASSENGERS."

*DUE TO A NECESSARY IMPURITY IN HIS RING, GREEN LANTERN IS POWERLESS AGAINST ANY-THING *YELLOW.*
--Len

...AND THEY ALL *DIED...* *THOUSANDS* OF INNOCENT BEINGS!

MY POWER RING TRACKED YOUR POD THROUGH HYPER-SPACE, TO LAWREL-HARDEE XI... AND NOW YOU'RE *MINE,* PIRATES!

5

NOBODY'S ME AIN'T! EAT HOT BLASTER-FIRE, FURBALL!

Cheet! THE NAME IS CH'P, PIRATE!

VREET!

I SUGGEST YOU REMEMBER THAT FOR ALL OUR FUTURE DEALINGS!

FLEE!

PUT THY FEET TO LABORING, MATES!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, PIRATE!

NOBODY'S GOING ANYWHERE!

THUDA

THUDA

THUDA

THUD!

SEEN ENOUGH, OLD TWFFFLETOOTOOT?

BAH! >squawk!< WAS RIGGED!... NO...>brawk!< ...FAIR!

BET'S A BET, TWFFF! PAY UP!

AWW... >squawk! squawk!<

QUIT YOUR SQUAWKIN', MAN! ONLY REASON I WON IS 'CAUSE I KNOW WHAT THEY DIDN'T!

BETTER BE...>brawk!<... GOOD! COST ME SIXTY CREDIT! >squawk!<

SURE!

THESE YOUNG 'UNS GOTTA LEARN YOU JUST DON'T MESS WITH NO MEAN-EYED FURBALLS!

THE END

I, LANTERN

JOEY CAVALIERI WRITER
KEVIN O'NEILL ARTIST
JOHN COSTANZA LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN COLORIST
LEN WEIN EDITOR

R I P

A FUNERAL?

THEY SHOULD CALL IT BY ITS *RIGHT NAME... A TRAVESTY!*

STEL R I P

GREEN LANTERN CORPS

YRON, *PLEASE!* THE OTHERS ARE *STARING!*

I DON'T *CARE*, ELGA! MOURNING IS *USELESS*--

--ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S WASTED ON A FAILURE LIKE *STEL!*

HE WAS CHOSEN TO BE *GREEN LANTERN* OF THE PLANET *GRENDA*... AND WHAT DID HE *ACCOMPLISH?*

HE WAS NEVER ANY HELP AGAINST THE *KRYDOS*, AND FINALLY, HE MANAGED TO GET HIMSELF *KILLED IN BATTLE!*

THAT WAS HIS *ONLY* WORTHWHILE ACHIEVEMENT!

WHAT A *TERRIBLE* THING TO SAY! IT'S *DISRESPECT!*

IT WAS DISRESPECT FOR THE GUARDIANS TO PICK *STEL* TO BE GREEN LANTERN...

...AND NOT *ME*... THE *MIGHTIEST* OF ALL THE...

NO! THEY'RE BACK AGAIN! THE KRYDOS!

HOW CONVENIENT-- TO HAVE SO MANY OF THE BLASPHEMERS ALL IN ONE PLACE!

OPEN FIRE! I'LL REWARD THE MAN WHO SLAYS THE MOST!

DESTROY ALL THE MECHANICAL MEN! THEY ARE A PARODY OF LIFE-- AN AFFRONT TO THE CREATOR!

THEY DON'T DESERVE... EVEN A CLOCKWORK EXISTENCE!

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! THEY WON'T BE HAPPY UNTIL WE'RE ALL BURNED-OUT HULLS!

IF ONLY STEL WERE ALIVE! HE'D KNOW WHAT TO DO!

YES-- HE'D ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD!

I INTEND TO STAY--

--AND FIGHT THEM!

I'LL SHOW THEM HOW I--

--WHAT? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM??

A GREEN LANTERN! OUR GREEN LANTERN, IT SEEMS!

THE GUARDIANS HAVE OBVIOUSLY PICKED STEL'S *SUCCESSOR*-- AN *OFF-WORLDER!*

WHA-- WHAT?

ME!

THEY SHOULD HAVE PICKED *ME!*

YOU'RE *USELESS* AGAINST THE KRYDOS... DON'T YOU SEE? *PATHETIC!*

SOMEONE SHOULD FIGHT THEM WHO *KNOWS HOW*...AND THAT SOMEONE IS *ME!*

TAKE ME TO *OA*... *NOW*... OR I'LL SNAP YOU LIKE A TWIG. YOU WON'T GET A *CHANCE* TO USE THAT RING!

I'M GOING TO FULFILL MY *DESTINY!* I'M GOING TO BECOME... A *GREEN LANTERN!*

YOU DO NOT *FRIGHTEN* ME, GRENDAN-- BUT FOR *YOUR* SAKE, I SHALL DO AS YOU SAY!

SHORTLY, AT THAT LEGENDARY WORLD AT THE VERY CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE...

AT *LAST!* THE GUARDIANS OF *OA!*

ARE YOU ALL *ASSEMBLED?* GOOD...I WON'T HAVE TO TROUBLE MYSELF BY *REPEATING* MY DEMAND!

I WANT--

WE *KNOW* WHAT YOU WANT!

THE GALAXY *ECHOES* WITH THE RINGING OF YOUR ARROGANT BELLOWING!

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE *MEASURE* OF A CORPSMAN--HOW LOUDLY HE THUMPS HIS CHEST AND WAILS?

QUALIFI-CATION?

IS THAT *YOUR* QUALIFICA-TION?

THIS IS MY QUALIFICATION!

WE'LL SEE *NOW* WHO WAILS AFTER I--

OH, YOU WON'T *FACE* ME, EH?

YOUR *IRREVERENCE* IS UNAMUSING, BUT DUE TO THE DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR PEOPLE, WE'LL ATTRIBUTE IT TO YOUR *DISTRESS!*

YET, WE... *SYMPATHIZE* WITH THE EMERGENCY ON YOUR PLANET! IF YOUR INDUCTION INTO THE CORPS WILL *ALLEVIATE* IT...

THEN, IN ALL GOOD CONSCIENCE-- WE MUST *GRANT* YOUR REQUEST!

I LIKE THE WHISTLING NOISE THEY MAKE WHEN THE SPHERES SAIL THROUGH THEM!

IS THAT ONE SUPPOSED TO BE A FEMALE? TRY CURLING UP WITH HER ON A COLD WINTER'S NIGHT! YOU'LL FREEZE YOUR TENDRILS!

ELGA! THE HEARTLESS VERMIN! THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ELGA!

AIM FOR HER! LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF NOISE SHE MAKES WHEN SHE SHATTERS!

I'VE GOT HER IN MY SIGHTS!

I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS! ELGA WILL REMAIN UN-HARMED, THANKS TO MY SUPERIOR INGENUITY!

THERE'S FAR TOO MANY OF THOSE SPHERES TO COLLECT, AND DEFLECTING THEM MIGHT DO WORSE DAMAGE IF THEY RICOCHET!

INSTEAD--

--THIS LOUDSPEAKER'S PITCH WILL SHATTER THE SPHERES--UNTIL THEY'RE NOTHING BUT--

EEEE

--DUST!?! NO! IT'S CLOGGING MY PEOPLE'S SYSTEMS-- ENTERING THEIR BRAINCASES-- THEIR JOINTS-- CHOKING OFF THEIR MOVEMENTS!

Y-Y-YRON!

ELGA!

BY THE GUARDIANS-- I--I'M KILLING HER!

I COUNTERED THEIR WEAPON--ONLY TO CREATE A WORSE ONE!

HOW COULD I HAVE DONE THIS? I'M A GREEN LANTERN! I'M A--

--FAILURE!

YRON OF GRENDA! YOU HAVE BRAGGED AND BULLIED YOUR WAY INTO THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS!

YOU HAVE DEFAMED THE MEMORY OF YOUR *PREDECESSOR*, STEL, WHO DIED *VALIANTLY* IN *BATTLE!* YOU PROCLAIMED FOR *ALL* YOUR COUNTRYMEN TO HEAR THAT STEL WAS ALWAYS *USELESS* AGAINST THE ON-SLAUGHT OF THE KRYDOS!

BUT NOW THAT *YOU* HAVE FACED YOUR RACE'S ENEMIES... YOUR EFFORTS PROVED *FOOL-HARDY*... AND *DANGEROUS* TO YOUR *PEOPLE!*

WE HAVE DONE AS YOU *DEMANDED*... NOW DO AS WE *COMMAND*...*RETURN THE RING!*

NEVER! I'M *NOT* A *FAILURE!* I WON'T LET YOU STRIP ME... OF WHAT I RIGHTFULLY *DESERVE!*

OF *COURSE*, BATTLING THE KRYDOS ON GRENDA ENDANGERED MY PEOPLE! LIVES ARE *ALWAYS* LOST IN *WARFARE!*

WOULD YOU BLAME THE KRYDOS' ATTACK ... ON *ME?*

JOEY CAVALIERI, WRITER
KEVIN O'NEILL, ARTIST
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN, COLORIST
LEN WEIN, EDITOR

I, LANTERN PART TWO

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS

THEN, I WILL BRING THE WAR *HERE*... WHERE IT *BELONGS*...

...TO THE *KRYDOS OUTPOST ITSELF!*

I WILL STRIDE INTO THEIR STRONG-HOLD...AND DEMONSTRATE HOW A *TRUE* WARRIOR FACES AN ENEMY!

DON'T BELIEVE MY STATUS IN THE CORPS IS THE REASON FOR MY *BRAVADO!* IT'S AS EASY FOR ME TO *HIDE* MY NEW COLORS... AS IT IS TO *DISPLAY* THEM!

I HAD THIS LITTLE CLOCKWORK CREEP RIGHT IN MY SIGHTS! I SQUEEZED OFF *ONE* ROUND... THEN *ANOTHER*--

--*NEXT* THING YOU KNOW, THAT ROBOT'S *PARTS* WERE SPREAD *ALL OVER* THE *SANDS!*

HE TELLS THAT STORY OVER AND OVER AGAIN! I NEVER GET *TIRED* OF IT!

ONLY BECAUSE HE *ADDS* TO IT WITH EACH REPETITION!

DOES HE TELL THE PART ABOUT HOW HE WAS *HUMILIATED* BY A *ROBOT?*

I'M *GETTING* TO-- *WHAT?*

WHAT ARE YOU *TALKING ABOUT?*

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE DISGRACE... THE *DEFEAT* YOU ALL WILL RECEIVE...

...AT MY... *MECHANICAL* ...*HANDS!*

BUT... *NO!* A VICTORY *HERE* IS A *VICTORY* IN A *VACUUM!*

FOR MY REVENGE TO BE SWEETER *STILL*... IT MUST BE *WITNESSED*.. BY MY FELLOW *GRENDANS!* *THEY* MUST SEE--

--HOW I BRAVELY DEAL WITH THE SCOURGE OF THEIR LIVES!

THEY WILL SEE... AND PROCLAIM *ME*... THEIR *SAVIOR!*

KRYDOS! SCATTER! THEY'LL *KILL* US *ALL!*

YRON BROUGHT THEM! HAS HE GONE *MAD?*

YOU ARE MAD *INDEED*, YRON! STEL WOULD NEVER PLACE THE LIVES OF HIS RACE IN *JEOPARDY* BY BRINGING HIS OWN WAR...*HOME!*

I *TIRE* OF THAT *COMPARISON*...I AM *YRON*...AND I AM THE *GREEN LANTERN* OF THIS SPACE SECTOR NOW...ITS SWIFT AND MERCILESS WEAPON AGAINST THE KRYDOS!

A WEAPON THAT CANNOT BE WIELDED--

--WHILE IT IS IN ITS *DEATH THROES!*

KRSSSSSHH

WE PLANNED TO DROP *BOMBS* OF THIS *CORROSIVE* ON YOUR PLANET... FINALLY *WIPING OUT* YOUR ARTIFICIAL *MOCKERY* OF *LIFE!*

I AM GLAD TO SEE THAT... IT IS *EFFECTIVE!*

THIS GREEN LANTERN DID US A GOOD TURN! HE PROVIDED US WITH *GRAND DIVERSION!*

AND WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO EXPEND THE ENERGY FOR THE TRIP!

THEY'RE GOING TO GO ON... TO *MASSACRE* MY *PEOPLE*... *AGAIN*... AND IT'S ALL *MY* FAULT!

THE GUARDIANS... THE WERE... *RIGHT!* STEL... WHATEVER HIS FAULTS... *NEVER* BROUGHT SUCH *IGNOMINY*... SUCH *TRAGEDY*... ON HIS OWN KIND!

STEL
RIP

STEL...HAD *JUDGMENT*... *DISCRETION*... HE WAS *VALIANT*...KNEW *WHEN* TO FIGHT... AND WHEN TO WALK *AWAY* FROM A FIGHT!

MY PEOPLE DON'T NEED *ME*...THEY NEED *STEL!*

STEL!

THE LAST GASP... THE LAST SIGH OF RELEASE OF ONE WHO GIVES UP HIS LIFE... FOR HIS PEOPLE...

...COALESCES... INTO ONE LAST SURGE OF WILL POWER... ONE FINAL SUMMONING OF DETERMINATION...

STEL RIP

...THAT WILL ALWAYS TRANSCEND DEFEAT... AND DESPAIR...

THAT WILL PERHAPS TRANSCEND EVEN... DEATH!

RIP

EVERY RACE... EVERY RELIGION... BELIEVES THAT IN ITS HOUR OF MOST DIRE NEED... THERE WILL COME A SAVIOR.

THAT SAVIOR HAS COME.

THAT SAVIOR IS STEL--

--GREEN LANTERN... OF GRENDA!

WHAT HAS BROUGHT HIM NEW LIFE?

IS HE MERELY A CONSTRUCT OF THE RING?

IS HE THE FINAL SPARK OF A DYING GREEN LANTERN, BROUGHT AGAIN TO LIFE? FOR CAN ONE MADE OF IRON AND STEEL EVER TRULY DIE?

HAS THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF YRON BEEN TRANSFERRED TO HIS PREDECESSOR? DO DYING WISHES BRING THE BREATH OF LIFE?

IN THE END... IT MATTERS NOT.

STEL IS A GREEN LANTERN... A CARRIER OF THE LIGHT...

...AND NOW... THE TORCH IS PASSED.

STEL! YOU'VE COME BACK TO US! YOU'RE OUR GREEN LANTERN AGAIN!

IT'S ABOUT TIME! YRON WAS DREADFUL! HE--

DO NOT SEEK TO BLAME HIM.

BREATHES THERE A LIVING BEING WITH SOUL SO DEAD... THAT HE CAN STAND BY AND WATCH HIS COUNTRYMEN *CRINGE* AND *COWER* IN FEAR OF THEIR *ENEMIES*?

DO NOT TELL ME OF HIS FAULTS. TELL ME OF HIS *ACTIONS*.

HE SAW HIS NATION UNDER SIEGE. HE ROSE TO DEFEND IT. THAT MAKES HIM A *HERO*.

HE KNEW HE COULD NOT *DEFEAT* OUR *ENEMIES*... SO HE GAVE HIS ALL... TO RESTORE LIFE TO SOMEONE WHO *COULD*.

THAT MAKES HIM YOUR SAVIOR.

REMEMBER HIM WELL... AND WHEN THE TIME COMES...

HOPE THAT *YOU* MAY BE VALIANT ENOUGH... TO DO THE *SAME*.

RIP

YRON

"DE MORTUUIS, NIL NISI BONUM."

END

EVERYONE ON THE PLANET *FERON* IS WATCHING! WHETHER THERE *IN PERSON*, OR WATCHING VIA *TELECOM BROADCAST*--THEY WAIT, *HUSHED* AND *EXPECTANT*...

THE GREEN LANTERN IS ABOUT TO SPEAK!

PEOPLE OF FERON... *MY* PEOPLE...

I HAVE WATCHED OVER YOU FOR WELL OVER *500 CYCLES*. MY DEATH IS NOT *FAR OFF*...

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS

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1

FEW PEOPLE ALIVE TODAY REMEMBER MY *FIRST DAYS* AS A GREEN LANTERN...

"FERON WAS *YOUNGER* AND *WILDER* THEN, AND OUR PLANET'S INNOCENTS IN *DESPERATE NEED* OF A CHAMPION..."

MY BABY!

DON'T WORRY, MA'AM-- SHE'S *SAFE!*

"I TOOK ON THE JOB WITH ALL THE *IDEALISM* OF *YOUTH*--

"--AND SOON FOUND I HAD A *TALENT* FOR IT!"

THE MAN IN *GREEN*-- HE'S SAVED THE CITY *AGAIN!*

WE'D BE *DOOMED* WITHOUT HIM!

"SOON, I BECAME AN *INDISPENSABLE PART* OF LIFE ON FERON. *ALARM NETWORKS* WERE CREATED TO NOTIFY ME THE INSTANT THINGS WENT *AWRY*..."

I MUST GO, MIRANDA--THE *SOUTHERN CONTINENT* IS IN NEED OF MY AID!

ZEET ZEET ZEET

"BUT AS TIME PASSED, AND FERON *PROGRESSED*-- MY DUTIES BEGAN TO *CHANGE*..."

THIS CONSPIRACY IS *AT AN END*, GENTLEMEN!

"SOCIETY HAD BECOME *TOO COMPLEX* FOR ME TO SIMPLY *PROTECT* THE PEOPLE. I FOUND I HAD TO *SHEPHERD* THEM.

"IN THE WAKE OF THE *GLOBAL WAR*, FIVE GENERATIONS AGO--I DICTATED *TERMS* FOR *INTER-NATIONAL BEHAVIOR*...

"...AND THEY WERE *ACCEPTED*.

"LESS AND LESS OF MY TIME WAS SPENT ON *PHYSICAL HEROICS*..."

O GREEN LANTERN--MY PEOPLE CANNOT SURVIVE THIS *TRADE EMBARGO*. WE APPEAL FOR YOUR *AID*...

"...AND MATTERS OF *JUDGMENT* BECAME NIGH *ALL-IMPORTANT*."

THESE *CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES* HAVE BEEN DETERMINED *HARMFUL* TO LIFE. THEY WILL *NO LONGER* BE MANUFACTURED.

"MY INFLUENCE NOW EXTENDS FAR BEYOND *DIRECT CONTACT*..."

WHAT WOULD *THE GREEN LANTERN* SAY?

SORRY, MA...

"...BUT SOMETIMES I WONDER IF I AM *SETTING* AN *EXAMPLE*...

"...OR JUST *MAKING RULES*."

O GREEN LANTERN--YOUR WISDOM IS EVIDENT IN THESE *POLLUTION LEVEL STANDARDS*...

...BUT IT IS *SO COSTLY* TO COMPLY WITH THEM. COULD YOU *RELAX* THEM A LITTLE?

AND NOW, WITH MY TIME *SO NEAR*-- I FACE A DIFFICULT *DECISION*.

I MUST CONCERN MYSELF WITH YOUR *FUTURE*...

OH, *MY*--HE'S GOING TO APPOINT A ... A *SUCCESSOR!*

BUT...WHO COULD IT *POSSIBLY* BE?

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD.

NOBODY IS *FIT* TO REPLACE HIM. WE ARE *IMPERFECT*-- HE IS THE *GREEN LANTERN.*

YOU TAKE THAT BACK! HE'S NOT GONNA *DIE*--HE'S *THE GREEN LANTERN!*

HE SAID IT *HIM-SELF!* AN' I BET MY *DAD'S* THE NEW GREEN LANTERN--AN' HE'S GONNA MAKE YOU *MOVE OUTTA TOWN!*

MAYBE IT'S FOR THE BEST. MAYBE THE *NEW* ONE WILL ALLOW US TO RELAX THE *STANDARDS.*

IT'D BE NICE IF HE SAW THINGS *OUR WAY* A LITTLE MORE...

4

ALL MY LIFE, I'VE KNOWN WHAT'S *RIGHT* AND WHAT'S *WRONG.*

BUT THE NEW GREEN LANTERN... HE MIGHT SAY RIGHT IS *WRONG.* OR NOT *RIGHT ENOUGH.* OR...

AND SO IT GOES...

...UNTIL...

I HAVE ASKED THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE *NOT* TO REPLACE ME WHEN I RETIRE.

THEY HAVE AGREED THAT THIS IS *DRASTIC* BUT *NECESSARY.* IF A GREEN LANTERN IS CHOSEN TO PATROL THE *UNINHABITED* PLANETS OF THIS SECTOR-- FERON WILL BE *OFF-LIMITS* TO HIM.

ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO *ANNOUNCE* MY RETIREMENT. IT BEGINS *NOW.*

FAREWELL. MY BODY LEAVES-- BUT MY HEART IS *EVER* WITH YOU.

HE IS NOT YET OUT OF SIGHT WHEN THE *ARGUMENTS* BEGIN...

WITH THE GREEN LANTERN GONE, *I'M* CLEARLY THE LOGICAL CHOICE TO LEAD OUR PEOPLE!

RUBBISH! WHY NOT *ME?!*

HA! A LOT *YOU* KNOW!

NEVER!

HE IS BARELY OVER THE *HORIZON* WHEN THE *FIGHTING* BREAKS OUT... 5

LONG BEFORE HE REACHES HOME, *CHAOS* REIGNS...

MIRANDA, MY LOVE. I WILL NEVER BE CALLED FROM YOUR SIDE AGAIN.

FOR *THAT*, YOU KNOW I'M *HAPPY*.

BUT I SAW YOUR *SPEECH*. THEY REACTED *BADLY*.

IT IS WHAT I *KNEW* WOULD HAPPEN. IT IS *DIFFICULT* TO SEE THEM IN SUCH *TURMOIL*-- BUT IT MUST BE *ENDURED*.

I KNOW. BUT *STILL*...

UNTIL TODAY, THEY WOULD HAVE *REVERED* YOUR MEMORY *FOREVER*.

NOW, THEY *VILIFY* YOU.

I ONLY HOPE THAT, LEFT TO THEMSELVES--

--THEY WILL REGAIN WHAT I *TOOK* FROM THEM, AND BECOME WHAT THEY ALWAYS *SHOULD HAVE* BEEN.

END

6

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS

FOREVER BLOWING BUBBLES!

KT21 OF THE PLANET JEROME--HOUSEWIFE, MOTHER, GLASS BLOWER, GREEN LANTERN. THE ELDERS OF OA HAD PROMISED TO APPOINT A NEW LANTERN IN KT'S REMOTE SECTOR WHEN HER SON BJ WAS BORN. BUT SOMEHOW, THEY NEVER GOT AROUND TO IT...

MOTHER, FELDON ATE MY TUBE OF *PLASTIGLASS*.

written by
MIKE BARON
drawn by
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lettered by BEN ODA
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edited by
LEN WEIN

I WILL BUY YOU A *NEW* TUBE THE NEXT TIME I'M AT THE CENTRAL STORE. BUT YOU MUST KEEP THIS ONE WHERE FELDON CAN'T *GET* AT IT.

I WILL! I WILL!

EMERGENCY! PIRATES LOOTING CENTRAL STORE! LOCAL POLICE INCAPACITATED! ANYBODY-- HELP!

BJ, I HAVE TO GO...

CRASH

WILL YOU GET MY *PLASTIGLASS*?

BJ, THIS IS A *CRISIS!* STAY HERE, STAY OUT OF TROUBLE, AND GO TO BED ON TIME.

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT, NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT...

THE RAIDERS' SHIP WAS MONSTROUS. IT HOVERED OVER JEROME'S CENTRAL STORE, SYSTEMATICALLY LOOTING THE PLANET'S PRIMARY SOURCE OF FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

I RECOGNIZE THE *MARKINGS* --IT'S THE *WARLORD POML*. A MERCILESS THUG.

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN *EXPECTING* A GREEN LANTERN...

SPACY'S

NICKEL'S

SERVICE ACCESS R-34

...SO I'LL *SURPRISE* THEM BY SNEAKING IN THE *SERVICE ENTRANCE!*

THIS LOOKS LIKE BJ'S ROOM ON A RAINY AFTERNOON.

SALE ½ PRICE

KT CHANCED UPON A SPILLED TRAY OF PLASTIGLASS. THE LITTLE TUBES OF MALLEABLE PLASTIC WERE USED AS TOYS, AND TO TEACH CHILDREN THE ART OF BLOWING GLASS.

IT'S WRONG TO JUST TAKE ONE...

... BUT I AM LAYING MY *LIFE* ON THE LINE. I'LL JUST LEAVE THE *MONEY* ON THE *COUNTER!*

GREEN LANTERN--! (GASP!)

WHO..? OH. *CENTRAL SECURITY.*

DON'T MOVE, I'LL GET YOU TO A *HOSPITAL.*

NO! NO *TIME!* THEY'VE SEIZED THE HOSPITAL (GASP!) YOU HAVE TO STOP THEM!

IF THEY GET AWAY, THOUSANDS WILL STARVE!

I'LL STOP HIM-- OR DIE *TRYING!*

WAIT--! (GASP!) LISTEN TO ME--!

THIS POML HAS HAD DEALINGS WITH LANTERNS *BEFORE!* HE'S *CLEVER!*

THEN I SHALL HAVE TO BE *MORE* CLEVER. I'LL SEND HELP AS SOON AS I CAN.

GOOD LUCK.

KT MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE PENTHOUSE WHERE POML WAS SUPER-VISING THE LOOTING.

3

CEASE AND DESIST! YOU ARE ALL UNDER ARREST BY AUTHORITY OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS!

SO.

HIT IT, ZUBIN!

YOU GOT IT.

CLICK

YES, LANTERN. IT IS *YELLOW*, AND NEARLY *INDESTRUCTIBLE*. DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE *AIR*... OSMOSIS.

YES. WE HAVE BEEN *EXPECTING* YOU. DID NOT COME ONLY FOR THE FOOD AND THE HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES.

YOU GREEN LANTERNS HAVE CAUSED POML A MOON OF *DIFFICULTY*. NOW POML WILL TAKE YOU HOME WITH HIM AS AN AMUSEMENT AND A WARNING TO *OTHER* COSTUMED DO-GOODERS.

4

THE GLOBE WILL HOLD FOR 24 HOURS. THEN WE SHALL DO WITH YOU AS WE PLEASE. WE LAUNCH IN 5 MINUTES.

THEY AREN'T EVEN *LOOKING* AT ME... BUT I HAVE *LIGHT*, AND THIS TUBE OF PLASTIGLASS. RED. HMMM...

TURNING HER BACK TO POML, KT BEGAN TO BLOW.

WHEN THE BLOB WAS BIG ENOUGH, SHE RIPPED A HOLE IN THE SIDE...

... STEPPED THROUGH, SEALED IT, AND CONTINUED TO BLOW.

I COULD *SUFFOCATE*, BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL BE *IN* HERE THAT LONG.

HEY! ZUBIN! WHAT IS SHE *DOING?*

FROM *MY* SIDE, THIS GLOBE IS *RED.*

5

GET HER *OUT* OF THERE! I DON'T *LIKE* IT!

RED I CAN *WORK* WITH.

SMASH

ONLY ONE *TOY* FOR ME AND I *BROKE* IT. TOO BAD. BUT I'VE STILL GOT *HOURS* LEFT ON MY POWER RING...

MOTHER--! SO *MANY*! AND *EVERY* *COLOR*!

YES, MY LOVE. CENTRAL STORE *INSISTED*.

AND SO DO I.

End

DEEP WITHIN THE PLANET CALLED **OA**, THERE IS A PLACE CALLED **THE HALL OF GREAT SERVICE.**

DEEP WITHIN THE HALL OF GREAT SERVICE, THERE IS A TOME CALLED **THE BOOK OF WORTHY NAMES...**

...AND DEEP WITHIN THE BOOK OF WORTHY NAMES IS A YOUNG AND IMPRESSIONABLE MEMBER OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

HER NAME IS **ARISIA.**

TOMAR RE, THIS IS ABSOLUTELY **WILD**! I'D NEVER **REALIZED** BEFORE JUST HOW **MANY** GREEN LANTERNS THERE **WERE.**

ALL THESE **NAMES**... FAMOUS ONES LIKE **HAL JORDAN** AND **KATMA TUI**, INFAMOUS ONES LIKE **SINESTRO**...

...AND SO MANY THAT I'VE NEVER EVEN **HEARD** OF! WHO THE HOBLAT IS **LEEZLE PON**? OR **DKRTZY RRR**? OR **MOGO**?

I'VE NEVER MET THESE PEOPLE. DON'T THEY ATTEND **MEETINGS**?

THERE ARE SOME GREEN LANTERNS WHO **CANNOT** ATTEND MEETINGS. **LEEZLE PON**, FOR EXAMPLE, IS A SUPERINTELLIGENT **SMALLPOX VIRUS.**

DKRTZY RRR, ON THE OTHER HAND, **DOES** ATTEND MEETINGS. BUT SINCE HE IS AN **ABSTRACT MATHEMATICAL PROGRESSION**, ONLY THE **GUARDIANS** NOTICE HIS PRESENCE.

AND AS FOR **MOGO**...

WELL, MOGO DOESN'T **SOCIALIZE.**

1

THERE IS A STORY ABOUT MOGO THAT YOU MAY FIND INTERESTING.

IT BEGINS WITH A CREATURE KNOWN AS *BOLPHUNGA THE UNRELENTING*...

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS

MOGO DOESN'T SOCIALIZE

ALAN MOORE: WRITER / DAVE GIBBONS: ARTIST-LETTERER / ANTHONY TOLLIN: colorist / LEN WEIN: EDITOR.

"*BOLPHUNGA* POSSESSED THE STRENGTH OF A *DENEBIAN DOZER-BULL*, THE ENDURANCE OF A *LALOTIAN LAVA-LIMPET*...

"...AND THE INTELLIGENCE OF A BED OF *KELP*.

"*HIS* REPUTATION WAS BUILT UPON NUMEROUS SUCCESSFUL DUELS, AND A STRING OF VANQUISHED FOES RENT LIMB FROM LIMB...

"*HE'D* PULVERIZED *RUSTANG THE VINDICTIVE*. HE'D PUREED THE TERRIFYING *KLOBA VUD*. HE'D BROKEN SEVENTEEN OF *RIVERA'S* ARMS.

"NOW HE INTENDED TO CAP HIS DUBIOUS CAREER BY CHALLENGING THE MOST *FEARED* AND *MYSTERIOUS* BEING OF THEM *ALL*...

"...THE *GREEN LANTERN* KNOWN AS *MOGO*."

MOGO, YOU SKULKING COWARD--I KNOW NOT WHERE UPON THIS OVER-GROWN PLANET YOU ARE, BUT HEAR THIS...

I AM BOLPHUNGA THE UNRELENTING, AND I COME TO CLEAVE YOU FROM WEEZAND TO FORK!

AYE, YOU HEARD ARIGHT, POOR DOOMED AND COWERING ONE!

BOLPHUNGA, AT WHOSE NAME THE DESERTS TREMBLE AND THE MOUNTAINS BURST INTO TEARS! BOLPHUNGA, SON OF BOFF!

I OFFER YOU A CHOICE, MEWLING AND RELUCTANT CUR...

DELIVER YOURSELF UNTO MY MERCIES NOW, AND I WILL PERMIT YOU TO LIVE, ALBEIT ONLY IN A LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEM!

CONTINUE TO AVOID MY AWESOME GAZE, AND YOU WILL FIND ME LESS GENEROUS!

WHICH IS IT TO BE?

VERY WELL! YOUR CRAVEN SILENCE SPEAKS LOUDLY OF YOUR BASE INTENT!

PREPARE YOURSELF, O SICKLY AND TREMULOUS ADVERSARY...

...PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE COMING OF BOLPHUNGA!!

3

"AND SO, OFF LUMBERED BOLPHUNGA INTO THE DENSE GREEN JUNGLES OF THE WORLD ON WHICH HE'D BEEN TOLD MOGO WAS TO BE FOUND...

"THE SEARCH WAS NOT AN EASY ONE. FOR ONE THING, BOLPHUNGA HAD BEEN ABLE TO GLEAN NO INFORMATION AS TO WHAT MOGO ACTUALLY LOOKED LIKE.

"COULD HE BE A PLANT...?

"...OR PERHAPS AN INSECT?"

NO...

NO POWER RING ON THIS ONE...

"INDEED, TRY AS HE MIGHT, BOLPHUNGA COULD FIND NO TRACE OF INTELLIGENT LIFE UPON THE PLANET AT ALL...

"...SAVE FOR ONE THING.

"THE FOLIAGE HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN CUT AND TENDED BY SOME HIGHER LIFE-FORM.

"THERE WERE NEAT-EDGED CLEARINGS, KILOMETERS WIDE. THERE WERE PLACES WHERE THE GREENERY HAD BEEN CLIPPED INTO VAST AND INDECIPHERABLE SHAPES.

"AS WEEKS TURNED INTO MONTHS AND MONTHS EXTENDED INTO YEARS, BOLPHUNGA GREW METHODICAL IN HIS SEARCH, DRAWING MANY PAINSTAKING MAPS...

"NOT FOR NOTHING WAS HE CALLED 'THE UNRELENTING.'

4

"...BUT STILL THERE WAS NO TRACE OF **MOGO**. AND THEN, ONE EVENING..."

HE **HAS** TO BE HERE **SOMEWHERE**! LET ME CONSULT MY **MAPS** ONCE MORE...

PAH! THEY GIVE ME NO **CLUE** AT ALL!

NOTHING SAVE FOR THESE MEANING-LESS **SWATHS** CUT INTO THE...

...GREENERY?

YAAAAAGH!

AAAAAAAAAA

"AND IT WAS THEN THAT BOLPHUNGA THE UNRELENTING FINALLY ...WELL, **RELENTED**, I SUPPOSE."

"CLAMBERING HURRIEDLY INTO HIS COSMOCRUISER, HE CAREENED OFF INTO THE VOID, A PITIFUL BLOB OF WAILING TERROR.

5

"AS HIS CRAFT BURST FREE OF THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE, HE LOOKED BACK ONCE...

"LOOKED BACK...

"AND SAW THE GREEN LANTERN KNOWN AS MOGO..."

"LOOKED BACK AT THE CARPET OF FOREST THAT COVERED A CONTINENT, LOOKED BACK AT THE DESIGN CARVED INTO THAT FOREST...

...AND THAT, ARISIA, IS WHY MOGO DOESN'T SOCIALIZE.

IT'S HIS GRAVITY FIELD, YOU SEE. IT WOULD PULL OA APART.

OF COURSE, ONE DAY I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT SOME OF THE REALLY BIG GREEN LANTERNS...

TOMAR RE? YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT? THAT WAS ALL JUST A WAD OF SKUBITZNY, WASN'T IT?

WASN'T IT?

TOMAR RE?

THE END.

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS

IT WAS THE GOLDEN TIME, THE *HARVEST* TIME ON XAOS. EACH CLAN CAME BUZZING TO THE WIDE GRAIN FIELDS TO GATHER THE SUN'S BOUNTY...

WITH THE *HARVESTERS* CAME EACH CLAN'S *WEAPONERS*--

--BECAUSE EVERY SUN SEASON THERE WERE *MORE CLANS* FIGHTING FOR *FEWER STALKS!*

HISTLA! WHO TAKES THE BOUNTY CLAIMED BY *LORD CHITINIX?!*

WE, THE GATHERING OF *MOST HIGH FORMOX!* GO HARVEST *ELSEWHERE,* LARVAE!!

FIE, DROOLING ONE...

...*BEGONE,* OR YOU WILL LEAVE OUR FIELD DISGRACEFULLY *HEADLESS!*

INSECT TRUST

TODD KLEIN: SCRIPT & LETTERS • KEVIN O'NEILL: ARTIST

ANTHONY TOLLIN: COLORIST

LEN WEIN: EDITOR

BUT THEN, EMERGING FROM SHADOW...

PREPARE YOUR OWN GRAVES, *ALL OF YOU!* OUR MOTHER, *PROUD BETERIX,* HAS ANNEXED *BOTH* YOUR FIELDS FOR THE ROYAL GRAINERY!

FORWARD TO DEFEND THEM, WARRIORS!

1

LOWER YOUR WEAPONS! BY THE POWER OF GREEN LANTERN, THERE WILL BE NO WARFARE HERE TODAY!

SLAM!

A CURSE ON YOUR INTERFERING POWERS, XAX! NOW WE MUST DIVIDE THE GRAIN EQUALLY, I SUPPOSE?

IT IS THE ONLY FAIR WAY.

FEH! WE SHALL ALL BE DISGRACED IN OUR LEADER'S EYES!

THANKS TO YOU, LOATHESOME XAX, THERE ARE SO MANY OF US, HALF OF XAOS IS STARVING TO DEATH!

WE WOULD RATHER DIE HONORABLY, AS OUR ANCESTORS DID!

NEVERTHELESS, YOU WILL DO AS I SAY! I HAVE SWORN A SACRED OATH TO PREVENT THE EVILS OF WAR!

THEIR WORDS PIERCE MY SHELL... FOR I KNOW THEY ARE RIGHT!

MY POWER RING HAS FAILED TO HELP ME COMBAT THE EVILS OF PEACE ON XAOS: OVERPOPULATION AND DWINDLING RESOURCES!

I HAVE TRIED TO FEED THE HUNGRY MASSES--BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND...

...AND LEFT MATTERS FAR WORSE WHEN MY STRENGTH GAVE OUT.

AS THE THREE CLANS COMPLY, GRUMBLING...

LOSH! ANOTHER BATTLE BEGINNING IN HEX LEPIDUX!

I MUST SOON APPEAL TO THE GUARDIANS FOR HELP --THIS PROBLEM IS TOO MUCH FOR ME!

2

FAR ABOVE THE FIELDS OF XAOS, *ANOTHER* THREAT APPROACHES...

...THE ROBOT-CONTROLLED DRONE SHIPS OF THE DISTANT, INSIDIOUS *SPIDER GUILD!*

THIS PLANET WILL BE AN *EASY* CONQUEST, MY MASTERS--

--THEY ARE *SO* INTENT ON FIGHTING *EACH OTHER*, THEY WILL NOT HEED OUR APPROACH!

GOOD. *EXCELLENT!*

YOU ARE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THEIR *GREEN LANTERN*, SO MUCH LIKE THE ONES WHO HAVE *THWARTED* US IN THE PAST?

THE DEVICE IS *ACTIVATED*, MASTERS!

ZZZZINK!

THEN LOOSE THE *COLONIZERS* ON THE *HOST PLANET!*

PSHHHH!

SUCCESSFUL DEPLOYMENT... COORDINATE!

PROTEIN WRAPPING PROCEEDS, NO RESISTANCE.

EH? WHAT, WHAT? WHO --?GLURGG?

JOYFUL NEWS--NO ALARMS GIVEN!

PROCEEDING TO NEAREST HEAT-SOURCE.

WRAPPING BLADDERS OPERATING AT TOP CAPACITY--ESTIMATE 99% OF PROTEIN ANESTHETIZED.

LAWKS!! M-MUST ESCAPE -- WARN OTHER CLANS--!

M-M-MUHH...

PSHHHH!

CORRECTION: NOW 100%!

4

LATER, AS XAX CONTINUES HIS WEARYING PATROL...

THAT REMARKABLY UGLY PERSON--NO, IT'S A *MACHINE*!! --ATTACKING A FARMER?!

PSHAHH!

OHHH..

NEVER FEAR, YOUNGSTER-- I'LL DEAL WITH THE INFERNAL ENGINE!

KHOOOOM!

TH-*THANKEE*, MAYSTER XAX! THAY BE TURRIBLE *SWIFT*-LIKE...

...BESMIRCHIN' THA WHOLE *TOWN* AFORE US COULD DEFEND IT!

LEAVE THEM TO *ME*!

BRAVE WORDS-- BUT THERE ARE *MILLIPEDS* OF THEM! WAIT... NOW THEY *FLEE* FROM MY APPROACH...

...AS IF THEY *KNOW* OF MY POWERS! COULD THIS BE THE *UNIVERSE-WIDE MENACE* THE OTHER CORPS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OF?

SZSZSZ

MIGHTY XAX, YOU *SAVED* US FROM DISHONOR!

WE SEE NOW THE *VALUE* OF YOUR POWERS, AND BEG YOUR *PROTECTION*!

'STROOTH!

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IS WHAT I *ALWAYS STRIVE FOR*, TOWNSMEN.

THOUGH, IF THE CREATURES BE AS *MANY* AS I SUSPECT, HOW CAN I HOPE TO DEFEAT THEM *ALONE*? HMMM...

5

SOON, OVER THE FIELDS NOW HELD BY THE INVADERS...

ALERT! THE GREEN-RINGED ONE APPROACHES!

AHAH! AFRAID OF THE RING, ARE YOU?

WELL, THIS TIME IT PURSUES YOU, SPIDER-SPAWN!

PURSUES YOU TO THE VERY JAWS OF...OF...

...A YELLOW-METAL TRAP!?!

SUCCESS, MASTERS! HIS RING WILL BE USELESS NOW!

WELL DONE! NEVER AGAIN WILL THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS DRIVE US FROM OUR CHOSEN PREY!

KRUNCH!!

INFECTRUST

.PART. TWO

TODD KLEIN: SCRIPT & LETTERS • KEVIN O'NEILL: ARTIST

SHELLEY EIBER: COLORIST

LEN WEIN: EDITOR

IT HAD BEEN *HARVEST TIME* ON XAOS -- UNTIL THE *SPIDER GUILD SHIPS* WOVE THEIR WEB OF *CONQUEST!*

OHHH...

PSHSHSH

NOW THE QUARRELSOME CLANS ARE BEING *INFESTED*, ONE BY ONE... BECOMING THEMSELVES THE *HARVEST!*

* COORDINATE: PROCEED TO NEXT PROTEIN CLUSTER *

ALL IS *WELL*, MY MASTERS! I HAVE *ENSNARED* THIS WORLD'S *GREEN LANTERN* IN YOUR CLEVER TRAP.

SEE HOW HE STRUGGLES IN VAIN?

=UNGHH= *NO USE!* THE YELLOW METAL *DEFIES* MY POWER RING--!

AH, XAOS-- HAVE I *LOST* YOU...?

1

ELSEWHERE, ABOVE DAWN-LIT FIELDS OF RIPE GRAIN...

TO ARMS, WARRIORS OF BETERIX--

--SOME STRANGE *METAMORPHOSIS* HAS TAKEN PLACE HERE!

WHERE ARE MY *GLOWWORM GUARDS?!*

I *HEAR* THEM, SIR--*INSIDE!*

=GROAN!=

CAUGHT *NAPPING* AGAIN, I'LL WAGER...

THIS WAS MOST *DISHONORABLE* OF YOU, *HEP-BETERIX*--

--COVERING OUR FIELDS BY NIGHT WITH *LOATHESOME METAL!*

YOU FOOL, HEP-APTOR! WOULD I *RUIN* MY *OWN* HARVEST?!

THEN... WHO *DID* THIS?

MORE PROTEIN TO BE PACKAGED

EGAD!

A...MALEVOLENT *MACHINE?!*

PSHSHSH

QUICK-- SEE ITS *PROPULSION ROTOR?*

YES! AND IF WE *TWIST* THE METAL WEBBING...

EXACTLY! THE ROTOR WILL *CLOG*, AND--

WHOOM!!

OH, *WELL PLACED*, BETERIX!

GOOD THINKING, APTOR!

2

HMMM... EVER HEAR OF A CLAN BUILDING SOMETHING LIKE *THAT?*

NEVER! WHAT WARRIOR WOULD WANT A *MACHINE* TO DO HIS FIGHTING?

BETTER CRY *TRUCE* WHILE WE QUESTION SOME OF THESE *NIGHT TROOPS.*

SOON...

THERE NOW, LAD... GIVE YOUR REPORT!

T'WERE *HOORIBLE,* SOR!

THEY *SPLOOTED* US WHAN OOR *SHELLS* WAS TURNED! NIVER HAD A *PRAYER!*

YOU ARE FAR FROM THE *FIRST,* IF THE REPORTS I'M HEARING ON THE *MESSAGE WAVES* ARE TRUE!

--LORD CHITINIX DEMANDS TO KNOW THE *SOURCE* OF THIS--

--*NOT TO BLAME! WE TOO* HAVE BEEN ATTACKED! PERHAPS THE *HEATHENOUS FORMOX* KNOWS--

--*SPIT* ON YOUR *ACCUSATIONS!* IF YOU COULD SEE OUR *ONCE-PROUD* CITY, YOU WOULD--

...*LISTEN--ALL OF YOU!* WE OF ZOONTOR KNOW THE *ORIGIN* OF THE INVADERS! THEY ARE *NOT OF THIS PLANET!*

EVEN NOW THEIR *WARSHIPS* DESCEND AT THE EDGE OF OUR CITY WITH A *MESSAGE!* LISTEN:

ALL TRIBAL LEADERS ARE TO *GATHER HERE* IMMEDIATELY!

IT WILL BE TO YOUR *ADVANTAGE* TO HEAR THE *TERMS OF YOUR ENSLAVEMENT!*

3

SOME HOURS LATER...

THUS DO THEIR MOST HORRIBLE MAJESTIES, THE *SPIDER IMPERIUM* (MAY THEY SPIN ETERNAL), AWARD XAOS THE HONOR--

--OF BECOMING A *HOST PLANET* TO THE *ROYAL SIBLINGS!*

YOU MAY CHOOSE, AMONG YOURSELVES, FOUR HUNDRED *APPLICANTS* TO BE *SERVED UP* AS THE *FIRST ROYAL MEAL!*

WHAT?!

NO--THAT IS *BARBAROUS!*

WE'D *SOONER DIE FIGHTING!!*

THEY WOULD *EAT US--OTHER LIVING CREATURES?!*

WHEN OUR *GREEN LANTERN* HEARS OF THIS, HE'LL PUT A *STOP* TO YOUR *REPULSIVE PLAN!*

LOOK THEN, SLAVE-- YOUR HERO HAS ALREADY *FAILED!*

SOON HE WILL HEAR ONLY THE *SILENCE OF DEATH!*

I-IT'S *TRUE!*

HE *GASPS* FOR BREATH--!

I FEEL *SHAMED*, HEP-FORMOX. DESPITE OUR *SCORN*, XAX STILL TRIED TO *PROTECT* US!

I, TOO...BUT THERE MAY YET BE TIME TO *SAVE HIM!*

4

FORWARD, WARRIORS! DEATH TO THE INVADERS!

TOGETHER IN THE NAME OF XAX!

PING!

TWANG!

THEY SWARM FORWARD--

--ONLY TO BE HURLED BACK BY A VAST STREAM OF SPIDER VENOM!

THEN--A GREEN GLOW ILLUMES THE BATTLEFIELD!

STAND ASIDE, CITIZENS--WE'LL DEAL WITH THEM!

IN A MOMENT, THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS IS VICTORIOUS!

AAAIII !! RETREAT! RETREAT!

HURRAH!

MORE GREEN LANTERNS?

SOON THE TRAP IS SPRUNG...

KRAK!

HURRY, ZGHITHII !!

ARE WE TOO LATE?

NO, MY FRIENDS--

--I STILL LIVE!

WE CHASED OFF THE INVASION FORCE, XAX.

WHY DIDN'T YOU WAIT FOR US BEFORE ATTACKING THEM? IT WAS A FOOLISH RISK!

I SAW A WAY OF UNITING MY PEOPLE--AND THAT WAS WORTH ANY RISK!

YOU TRICKED US! YOU KNEW HELP WAS COMING!

STOP POSTURING FOR A MOMENT AND THINK!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN XAOS'S HISTORY, ALL THE CLANS BATTLED IN A COMMON CAUSE!

THERE IS... TRUTH IN HIS WORDS.

AYE.

IT GOES AGAINST EVERY TRADITION!

WE GREEN LANTERNS ALSO HAVE TRADITIONS, SIR... AND THEY ARE NOT HINDERED BY OUR DIFFERENCES.

TODAY YOU FOUGHT A COMMON ENEMY-- BUT THE ENEMY HUNGER MUST STILL BE DEFEATED! SURELY YOU WILL NOT DISGRACE YOURSELVES BY REFUSING TO FACE IT TOGETHER?

THE FIGHTING WOULD NOT END TODAY--BUT NOW THERE WAS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY... A NEW TRADITION.

IT WAS THE HARVEST TIME ON XAOS...BUT PERHAPS THE GOLDEN TIME WAS ONLY BEGINNING.

The End.

SQUINT INTO THE CLEAR NIGHT SKY, AND YOU CAN ALMOST SEE IT--

--A SHIMMERING PINPRICK OF LIGHT, GLOWING ABNORMALLY BRIGHTER THAN THE REST...

THIS IS, IN FACT, NO STAR, BUT THE GLEAMING PLANET KNOWN AS OA--

--THAT LEGENDARY WORLD AT THE VERY CENTER OF THE COSMOS--

-- WHERE GOLDEN SANDS RIPPLE IN WAVES ACROSS A TERRAIN THAT IS BARREN OF ALL LIFE--

--SAVE THIS:

THE TOWERING CITADEL THAT IS HOME TO THE SELF-PROCLAIMED GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE--

--AND HEADQUARTERS TO THEIR FAMED GREEN LANTERN CORPS...

I AM PLEASED THE EARTHMAN JOHN STEWART ACCEPTED HAL JORDAN'S POWER RING!

AYE, TOMAR-RE--THAT ONE WILL DO HONOR TO THE CORPS!

Before we return to our respective SPACE SECTORS, I, for one, intend to RECHARGE my ring at the MASTER BATTERY!

I would be HONORED, my friends, IF you would JOIN me in the ritual!

THE HONOR, XAX--

--IS ENTIRELY OURS!

FOR YEARS BEYOND NUMBERING, THEY HAVE DEFENDED THE UNIVERSE AGAINST UNDYING EVIL! NOW, AT LAST, THE TALES OF THEIR HEROISM CAN BE TOLD..

TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS™

THE RITUAL IS ANCIENT BEYOND MEMORY, BUT FOR ALL ITS ANTIQUITY IT HAS LOST NONE OF ITS DRAMA--

--AND THOSE WHO SPEAK THIS SACRED OATH STILL DO SO WITH REVERENCE...

ARISIA OF GRAXOS IV:

...NO EVIL SHALL ESCAPE MY SIGHT!

KATMA TUI OF KORUGAR:

LET THOSE WHO WORSHIP EVIL'S MIGHT...

CH'P OF H'LVEN:

...BEWARE MY POWER.

XAX OF XAOS:

...Green Lantern's Light!

ARKKIS CHUMMUCK OF TOOMI VI

IN BRIGHTEST DAY...

TOMAR-RE OF XUDAR:

...IN BLACKEST NIGHT...

...those who worship evil's might...

PAUL KUPPERBERG — PLOTTER/CO-SCRIPTER
LEN WEIN — CO-SCRIPTER/EDITOR
GIL KANE, ILLUSTRATOR
JOHN COSTANZA, LETTERER
ANTHONY TOLLIN, COLORIST

3

AND WHEN THE RITUAL IS AT LAST COMPLETED...

GUESS WE'D BETTER GET GOING, HUH?

AYE, LITTLE ONE-- THERE IS A *UNIVERSE* AWAITING OUR *PROTECTION!*

WHEN *NEXT* WE GATHER, MAY IT BE FOR A MORE *JOYOUS* OCCASION!

Hal Jordan was once among the BEST of us...

HE WILL BE *MISSED.*

NOT BY *ME*, HE WON'T!

HAL JORDAN *BETRAYED* US--

--AND *I*, FOR ONE, WILL NEVER *FORGIVE* HIM!

JUST BECAUSE HE *RESIGNED* FROM THE CORPS TO BE WITH THE WOMAN HE *LOVES*?

THAT'S *RIDICULOUS!*

"*ONCE A GREEN LANTERN, ALWAYS A GREEN LANTERN!*" JORDAN HIMSELF *TAUGHT* ME THAT, ARISIA--

--AND YOU'D DO WELL TO *REMEMBER* IT!

ARE YOU *IMPLYING* THAT I--

THE GROUND-- *TREMBLING..!?!*

--HUH?!?

BUT HOW CAN THIS BE *HAPPENING?* OA IS THE MOST GEOLOGICALLY *STABLE* PLANET IN THE UNIVERSE!

EARTHQUAKES HERE ARE SCIENTIFICALLY *IMPOSSIBLE!*

BY THE INFINITE VOID--AN *EARTHQUAKE!!*

WELL, IF THIS ISN'T A *NATURAL* DISASTER, THERE MUST BE SOME *OUTSIDE* CAUSE--

--AND IT'S UP TO *US* TO PUT A *STOP* TO IT!

THEN INTO SPACE WITH YOU ALL, MY FAITHFUL--

THE *CITADEL* IS STARTING TO SHAKE ITSELF *APART--!*

--FOR IT IS THERE YOU SHALL FIND THE SOURCE OF THIS DISTURBANCE!

YOU *HEARD* THE MAN, PEOPLE--

5

--WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

BE *ALERT*, MY FRIENDS ANY FORCE THAT CAN DO *THIS* TO OA--

--IS SURELY NOT ONE TO BE TAKEN *LIGHTLY*!

WHAT COULD HAVE *PIERCED* OUR PROTECTIVE SCREENS, MY BRETHREN?

I KNOW *NOT*, FOR TRY AS I MIGHT TO *PROBE* FOR SOME PRESENCE--

--I SENSE NOTHING BUT *EVIL*, WITHOUT FORM OR... *HOLD*!

DO YOU NOT FEEL IT *TOO*--? SOMETHING... *COMES*!

THEY FEEL IT!

IT IS EVERYWHERE.

AHAHAHA

IT DOESN'T REQUIRE A POWER RING TO SEE... *THERE!*

CHEEET! BY S'MIN, IT IS SOME MANNER OF *GRAVITATIONAL FIELD!*

FAR *WORSE* THAN THAT, I FEAR, CH'P!

AYE, I HAVE COME ACROSS SUCH A PHENOMENON *MYSELF* IN TIMES PAST.

IT IS A ROGUE *WHITE DWARF STAR FRAGMENT!*

AND WHILE IT CANNOT *DESTROY* OA...

I DON'T KNOW A WHOLE *LOT* ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF...

...BUT I THINK I KNOW *ENOUGH* NOT TO LET THIS THING STAY *ON COURSE* FOR... *UHHHNNN!*

Fear not, little one. I am on my way!

S-SOMEBODY *DO*... SOMETHING...

IT... IT DOESN'T... *UGH!*... WANT TO *STAY STOPPED!*

7

AS SWIFT AS THOUGHT, XAX OF XAOS POSITIONS HIMSELF ABOVE THE SHINING FACE OF OA--

--WILLING A SINGLE, PENCIL-THIN BEAM OF EMERALD ENERGY FROM HIS RING TO SLICE THROUGH SPACE LIKE A LASER...

...DRILLING THROUGH METERS OF THE HARDEST ALLOY UPON THE PLANET'S SURFACE--

--AND THEN THROUGH THE PLANET ITSELF, CHEWING THROUGH TIME-HARDENED CRUST--

--UNTIL...

YOU CAN *RELEASE* IT NOW, ARISIA!

THERE! XAX'S SIGNAL!

WHEW! AND NOT A *SECOND* TOO SOON!

YOU GUYS HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT'S LIKE, *CONTAINING* SOMETHING THAT'S SUCKING UP THE VERY ENERGY YOU'RE CONTAINING IT *WITH*?!

YOU DID *FINE*, HOLDING BACK THE FRAGMENT--

--UNTIL XAX COULD PROVIDE IT WITH A PASSAGEWAY *THROUGH* OA...

8

"... AND SAFELY OUT THE OTHER SIDE, WHERE IT MAY CONTINUE ON ITS VOYAGE THROUGH THE COSMOS--

"--WHILE LEAVING OA INTACT!"

WELCOME BACK, XAX! YOUR STRATEGY WAS WISE...

Thank you, Arkkis Chummuck! Such words mean MUCH from you.

ATTEND ME, MY FRIENDS! WE SHOULD NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME CONGRATULATING OURSELVES.

NO DOUBT THE GUARDIANS WILL WISH TO SEE US--

--SO THAT WE MIGHT DETERMINE THE REASON FOR THIS OCCURRENCE!

YEAH, I ALWAYS THOUGHT OA WAS PROTECTED FROM THIS KIND OF THING!

THE GUARDIANS BELIEVED SO AS WELL, LITTLE SISTER--

--FOR THEY WERE AS... BY THE GREAT TREE SPIRIT!

THE GUARDIANS' CITADEL... IN RUINS!

BUT... THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE! WHO POSSESSES POWER ENOUGH TO ACCOMPLISH THIS... IN MERE MOMENTS?!

9

TENSE MOMENTS LATER...

HONORED GUARDIANS... BATTERED...ON THE GROUND IN...DEFEAT...?!

BY ALL THAT IS SANE--! WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

I DO NOT KNOW, TOMAR-RE... BUT IT IS FAR WORSE THAN YOU IMAGINE!

LOOK AT THE BATTERY OF POWER!

HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE GLOW?!

PERHAPS THE GUARDIANS CAN TELL US!

WOULD THAT WE COULD, TOMAR-RE--

--BUT IN TRUTH, WE DO NOT KNOW!

IT WAS AS IF A SHADOW OF PUREST BLACKNESS DESCENDED UPON US--

--ALL BUT IGNORING OUR FINEST EFFORTS AT DEFENSE...

... TAKING THE ENTIRE RESERVES OF ENERGY FROM THE BATTERY WITHOUT EFFORT...

...AS WELL AS THREE OF OUR NUMBER...

...WHILE WE COULD DO NOTHING... BUT WATCH...

10

YOU MEAN... THE BATTERY'S *DEAD*?!

BUT... ISN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE A SOURCE OF *LIMITLESS* POWER FOR US?

THE *MECHANICS* OF THE BATTERY DO NOT *MATTER*, ARISIA OF GRAXOS!

HE IS *CORRECT*--

--RATHER THAN *TALKING*, WE SHOULD BE *MOBILIZING* THE ENTIRE CORPS!

THAT WILL NOT BE *POSSIBLE*, TOMAR-RE!

WITH THE BATTERY DRAINED OF ITS EMERALD ENERGIES, IT CANNOT POWER THE *INDIVIDUAL* BATTERIES.

ONLY YOU SIX POSSESS *FULLY CHARGED* RINGS.

YOU MUST GO THIS *ALONE*, MY CHILDREN!

SO BE IT, HONORED GUARDIAN!

COME, FELLOW LANTERNS! THE *UNKNOWN* AWAITS US... *BEYOND!*

WE'RE ON YOUR *TAIL*, CH'P... ER, SO TO *SPEAK!*

THEY GO, WITHOUT THOUGHT TO WHAT LIES AHEAD..

AYE, BROTHERS.

TRULY ARE THE BEARERS OF THE RINGS OF POWER A BREED *APART* FROM ANY OTHER.

THEY *SHALL NEED* TO BE...

WE'RE MAKING GOOD *TIME*, TOMAR-RE... IF ONLY WE *KNEW* WHERE WE WERE GOING!

I SHALL ATTEMPT TO GIVE US *DIRECTION*, KATMA. PERHAPS THE ABDUCTOR OF THE GUARDIANS LEFT A *TRAIL*--

--WHICH OUR RINGS CAN *DETECT!*

As you said, friend tomar...ENERGY TRAILS!

THREE OF THEM, TO BE EXACT--

--ONE FOR EACH *GUARDIAN*, NO DOUBT! WE SHALL HAVE TO *SEPARATE!*

It has been a WHILE since we shared an adventure, friend katma!

IS IT OKAY IF I TAG ALONG WITH *YOU*, TOMAR-RE?

WITH YOUR *PERMISSION*, GOOD CH'P...?

FLESH AND BLOOD BECOMES AS FORMLESS EMERALD LIGHT THAT SPREADS INTO SPACE'S INKY BLACKNESS--

--INTO INFINITY...

...AND *BEYOND!*

HAHAHA

HAHAHAHA

HAHAHAH

FROM OA, THIS PLACE AT UNIVERSE'S EDGE IS LESS THAN A DIM GLIMMER OF SPARKLING MIST--

--YET IT LIES BUT A HEARTBEAT AWAY FOR WIELDERS OF THE RING!

THE TRAIL IS STILL *STRONG*, ARISIA.

WE'VE COME PRETTY *FAR*, TOMAR. WHERE DO YOU THINK IT'S *TAKING* US?

DOUBTLESS INTO *TROUBLE*--

--AND ONLY *MAYBE* TO THE KIDNAPPED GUARDIAN!

UH, I DON'T MEAN TO BE *DENSE*, BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN "*MAYBE*"?

IS IT NOT *OBVIOUS*... THE GUARDIANS BEING ATTACKED WHILE WE *HAPPENED* TO BE BUSY *ELSEWHERE*?

I SEE WHAT YOU... *OH!*

ARISIA! WHAT'S *WRONG*?

THE TRAIL LEADS INTO... *THAT!* I--I'VE NEVER GONE *INTO* A STAR BEFORE!

GRANTED, IT IS AN *INTIMIDATING* PROSPECT, BUT THEN, YOU *ARE* A GREEN LANTERN--

--THUS ANYTHING YOU *WILL* IS *POSSIBLE!*

IN *OTHER* WORDS, "*SHUT UP* AND FLY"! RIGHT?

WELL... THAT IS THE *INTENT*, IF NOT THE SPIRIT...

13

WHEN, WITH NO MORE EFFORT THAN SETTING OUT INTO A SUMMER SHOWER, THEY PLUNGE INTO A FIERY THERMO-NUCLEAR HELL--

--ARISIA CAN ONLY SWALLOW HER AMAZEMENT.

HESITATION IS FORCED FROM HER MIND.

CERTAINTY IS HER ONLY SHIELD!

THE TRAIL'S STILL HOLDING, TOMAR!

WELL, I THINK WE'RE ALL PRETTY MUCH *AGREED* THIS *ISN'T*... ***UGH!***

STEADY, LITTLE SISTER! YOU MUST NOT LET YOUR CONCENTRATION *FLAG* FOR EVEN AN *INSTANT*--

AMAZING! THE INTENSE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELD WITHIN THE SUN SHOULD *DIS-SIPATE* ANY NORMAL ENERGY FLOW...!

--IF YOU DO NOT WISH IT TO GET EVEN *HOTTER* THAN IT IS NOW!

I... I'M OKAY, TOMAR. THE *CORE'S* A LOT *WARMER* THAN THE SURFACE. JUST NEEDED A SLIGHT *READJUSTMENT!*

14

THE BEAUTY AND BLINDING FURY OF THE RED GIANT'S HEART RAGES ON... TO COLORS BEYOND SEEING...

...TO HEAT BEYOND IMAGINING... THEN...

OMIGOSH--!?! TOMAR... *WHAT* IN THE NAME OF THE GUARDIANS...?!

IT IS AN *INTERDIMENSIONAL PORTAL!*

I HAVE SEEN THEM BEFORE, EXISTING IN AREAS OF GREAT *TURBULENCE* SUCH AS THIS!

AND THE TRAIL GOES STRAIGHT *THROUGH* IT!

THEN SO, MY FRIEND, SHALL *WE!*

ARISIA FEELS NOTHINGNESS... AS IF FOR THE INSTANT SHE HAS CEASED TO EXIST--

--ONLY TO BE REBORN IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE SO UNLIKE THAT WHICH SHE CALLS HOME.

YET, A FAMILIAR SIGHT AWAITS HER HERE.

THE GUARDIAN! B-BUT... HE'S SO STILL!

SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT TO BE GLAD!

15

TOMAR...YOU DON'T THINK H-HE'S... DEAD... DO YOU?

WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE!

ARISIA... WAIT!

--AND, SLOWLY, THE PALE BLUE FACE LIFTS--

--AND GAZES WITH EYES AS DARK AS DEATH!

THE CRY CUTS THROUGH THE EERIE SILENCE--

I HAVE BEEN WAITING!

SO HAVE... THEY!

SPACE PARTS LIKE A STAR-STUDDED CURTAIN BEHIND THE AGELESS CITIZEN OF OA--

--AND FROM THEN ON, ALL SEMBLANCE OF REALITY..

... FADES...

16

INTERLUDE:

ELSEWHERE, IN A UNIVERSE RECOGNIZABLE AS OUR OWN...

SSSSO, THE RAIDERSSS OF KRAMTOO THINK TO PLY THEIR TRADE UPON KRYLOSSS--

--SSSAVE THEY DID NOT RECKON THISSS TO BE THE HOME OF ONE OF THE CORPSSS!

LET THEM *FLEE!* SSSOON I SSSHALL BE *UPON* THEM AND...

HSSSSS?! BY THE GUARDIANSSS... MY RING...

...LOSSSSING ITSSS *CHARGE*...

I... I *CANNOT* REMAIN ALOFT...!

THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERGE IT IS THE *SAME.*

MEANWHILE...

AH, *YES!* I *THOUGHT* I RECOGNIZED THIS SECTOR!

You do not sound *PLEASED* about our *DESTINATION*, friend Katma Tui!

17

IF YOU KNOW *ANYTHING* ABOUT *NARKOS XI*, YOU WOULD *UNDERSTAND*, XAX.

NO MORE *DEPRAVED* WORLD EXISTS IN ALL THE COSMOS, FOR *HERE* ANY *PLEASURE* OR SIN *IMAGINED* CAN BE PURCHASED--

--AND SOME, I HEAR, EVEN *BEYOND* IMAGINING!

SUDDENLY...

ATTENTION, GREEN LANTERNS! WHILE YOU HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR OUR BROTHERS--

--WE HAVE CONDUCTED OUR *OWN* PROBES!

THOUGH WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO PINPOINT OUR FOE, WE FEAR HE IS MORE POWERFUL THAN FIRST THOUGHT.

EVEN NOW, THE STOLEN POWER BATTERY ENERGY IS BEING DIRECTED TOWARDS THE VERY *FABRIC* OF TIME AND SPACE--

--UTILIZING OUR BROTHERS AS *FOCAL POINTS* TO BREAK DOWN THE BARRIERS BETWEEN DIMENSIONS!

THEY *MUST* BE FOUND...OR ALL THAT *IS* WILL CEASE TO BE!

PERHAPS WE'LL FIND OUT MORE *BELOW*... AT THE *END* OF THE TRAIL!

GREAT STARS! THEN IT'S *WORSE* THAN WE IMAGINED!

Aye, and I would not have thought that POSSIBLE!

18

THE AIR HERE IS THICK WITH FOUL, PUNGENT ODORS... UNWASHED BODIES OF A HUNDREDSCORE WORLDS...

...SICKLY SWEET INCENSE TO MASK MYRIAD NARCOTICS...

..THE FETID STENCH OF DECADENCE AND DECAY...

NONE SEEMS OVER PLEASED TO SEE THE LIKES OF *US* HERE!

The feeling is decidedly MUTUAL!

WELL, WE WERE NEVER PROMISED OUR *SENSIBILITIES* WOULDN'T BE *TESTED*, EH?

Indeed NOT... though Narkos is a bit EXTREME.

Ah, that seems to be our DESTINATION!

WE ARE KATMA TUI AND XAX OF XAOS OF THE *GREEN LANTERN CORPS!* ALLOW US TO *PASS*, BEING!

A *PLEASURE*, ME RED-HUED BEAUTY... AND AN *HONOR* AS WELL, OH, YES--

--*EXCEPT* YOU MUST *SURRENDER* YOUR RINGS! WEAPONS ARE NOT *PERMITTED* ON THESE PREMISES!

BUT WE'RE...

GIVE 'EM UP OR GO *AWAY*, LADY!

19

OH, WELL, I SUPPOSE RULES *ARE* RULES, EH, XAX?

But... to give up our RINGS, friend Katma...?

DON'T BE *DIFFICULT*, XAX. GIVE THE BEING YOUR RING...

...JUST AS *I'M* DOING!

SUCH *PRETTY* BAUBLES! I SHALL GUARD THEM WITH MY *LIFE!*

Such would be ADVISABLE, being!

AHEM...YES.

NOW, PLEASE... *ENTER!* THE PLEASURES *OF* THE HOUSE ARE *ON* THE HOUSE FOR YOU, HONORED LANTERNS!

GEE... JUST WHAT I'VE ALWAYS *WANTED!*

UGH! THIS PLACE *DISGUSTS* ME, XAX! LET'S COMPLETE OUR BUSINESS *FAST!*

According to the Guardian's words, fast is our ONLY option.

But I concur! This is no place for one of... DELICATE sensibilities.

SHAY, SHWEETIE, I DON'T SHEE MANY 'A *YOUR* KIND IN THESHE PLACESHES!

NO DOUBT.

AND IF YOU DO NOT *RELEASE* ME, FOOL--

20

--YOU'LL NOT BE SEEING *ANYTHING* SAVE THE *INSIDE* OF YOUR EYELIDS!

YIIIIIIEEEEE!

GARRR! WATCH WHERE YER TOSSIN' YER *TRASH*, RED!

HEY! MY DRINK--!

Rather EXCESSIVE... but it appears to get the job DONE.

WHO'S GONNA *PAY* FOR MY *DRINK*?!?

UHHHHHN

COME, XAX, LET'S GET *OUT* OF THIS CROWD... BEFORE SOMEONE *ELSE* TAKES A *LIKING* TO ME!

As you say. The energy trail leads THIS way.

THE ANTI-GRAVITY TUBE RAISES THEM ABOVE THE SMOKE AND BABBLE OF THE ENTHRALLED MASSES, TO...

A SEALED DOOR. WHAT WE SEEK LIES *BEYOND* IT.

Then I see no reason to DELAY.

I believe I can open this from within... AHHH!

IT'S *EMPTY*...!

BUT I COULD HAVE *SWORN* THERE WOULD BE...

UHH! THAT *BLINDING* FLASH...!

Get BACK, katma... before...

NO... WAIT! IT'S THE GUARDIAN, XAX! WE'VE FOUND HIM!

yes, though it would seem too soon to consider that a VICTORY...!

HAHAHAHAHA! WELCOME TO MY PRESENCE, BEINGS!

WELCOME TO YOUR DEATHS!

LOOK NOT FOR SALVATION ABOUT YOU! YOU ARE POWERLESS BEFORE ME--

"--WHILST YOUR POWER RINGS ARE IN THE GRASP OF MY MINION... FAR BELOW... UNREACHABLE!"

GUESS AGAIN, MISTER!

I DON'T KNOW *WHO* YOU ARE, CONTROLLING THE GUARDIAN--

"--BUT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT THE FIRST THING THEY TEACH US IS NEVER TO SURRENDER OUR RINGS..."

22

...ALTHOUGH THEY NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT RING-GENERATED *DUPLICATES!*

Are you READY, Friend Katma?

BOOM

DO YOU EVEN NEED *ASK*, XAX?

BRAZEN FOOLS! THINK YOU THAT MERE BANDS OF EMERALD METAL ARE A MATCH--

--FOR THE POWER OF A UNIVERSE UNLEASHED? HAHAHAHAHA!

UGH! H-HE'S TURNED MY OWN ENERGY... BACK *AGAINST* ME...

X-XAX... *YOU* MUST... T-TRY TO *FREE* THE GUARDIAN...

YOU MAY TRY, INSECT--

--BUT KNOW THAT I ALONE AM ENOUGH TO DEFEAT YOU...

...AND I AM HARDLY ALONE! HAHAHAHA HAHAHA!

EYES BLAZING AS RED AS AN EXPLODING STAR SHINE FORTH FROM INKY DARKNESS, FILLING THE SHIMMERING PORTAL.

A SINGLE STEP REMAINS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

23

INTERLUDE:

HALF A UNIVERSE AWAY IS TRONT.

UPON THIS GAS GIANT IS A FORM OF LIFE VERY DIFFERENT FROM OURS--

--FORMED OF WEIGHTLESS, AMORPHOUS VAPOR. SUCH IS LIFE ON TRONT.

SAVE FOR THE GLOWING GREEN BATTERY OF POWER.

...AND WHERE EDDORE, GREEN LANTERN OF TRONT, CAN NEVER RETRIEVE IT.

THE RING GLOWS NO MORE.

THAT HAS WEIGHT, AND ONLY ITS OAN-GENERATED POWER KEEPS IT ALOFT.

BUT SUDDENLY THAT POWER IS GONE--

--PLUNGING THE BATTERY INTO THE PLANET'S CORE--

--WHERE EVEN IT MIGHT NOT SURVIVE THE UNIMAGINABLE PRESSURES BELOW...

ELSEWHERE...

I DO NOT *LIKE* THIS, BROTHER CH'P! WE DO NOT EVEN KNOW *WHERE* WE ARE GOING!

WHEREVER THE TRAIL *LEADS*, ARKKIS CHUMMUCK!

THE GUARDIAN'S TELEPATHIC MESSAGE WAS *CLEAR*... THE UNIVERSE IS IN *GRAVE* DANGER.

AYE. NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.

24

WAIT... AHEAD! BY ALL THAT IS HOLY, CH'P-- HAVE EVER YOU SEEN SUCH... EVIL?

I FEEL IT DOWN TO MY BONES--

--AS I FEEL THE CERTAINTY THAT WE SHOULD PROTECT OURSELVES...

...NOW!

WHAT IS HIS TROUBLE?!

THE SHATTERING OF THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS, ACCORDING TO THE GUARDIAN!

HE MUST BE STOPPED BEFORE HE...

THE EYES DO NOT BLINK.

--AND ARKKIS CHUMMUCK IS...

...GONE..!?!

THEY MERELY STRIKE--

AND FROM SOMEWHERE COMES THE ECHO OF MOCKING LAUGHTER!

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE ACROSS THE DIMENSIONS...

THERE ARE *THOUSANDS* OF THEM, ARISIA!

IT WILL BE HARD-- BUT, I HOPE YOU ARE *READY*, LITTLE SISTER, TO TURN YOUR RING AGAINST THE *GUARDIAN*!

I'M *READY*, TOMAR.

I *HATE* IT, BUT I'M READY!

WE HAVE NO *OTHER* CHOICE! THE FATE OF THE *UNIVERSE* IS AT STAKE--

--AND THE GUARDIAN IS BEING CONTROLLED BY WHATEVE-- *EH?!*

YOU FORGOT TO WATCH YOUR *REAR*, FRIEND--

--JUST THE PLACE THESE WIGGLY *NASTIES* WOULD STRIKE AT!

MY *THANKS*, ARISIA. BUT THIS ONLY SOLVES THE MOST *IMMEDIATE* DANGER--

26

..WHILE *THIS* OUGHTA SCATTER THE *SECOND WAVE* BEFORE IT CAN HIT!

EXACTLY! YOU HAVE GROWN QUITE *PROFICIENT* WITH YOUR RING, ARISIA.

UH... THANKS..

...BUT I DON'T THINK *HE'S* AWFULLY *IMPRESSED!*

BY THE BATTERY! HE IS... *HUGE!*

YEAH... AND *WE'RE SURROUNDED!*

I... *HEY!* WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO HIM?!

A *BURNING HOLE...* APPEARING IN THE GUARDIAN'S CHEST--

--SHIMMERING ...SMOLDERING... *ALIVE* WITH EMERALD ENERGY!

TOMAR.. IT'S BURNING RIGHT *THROUGH* HIM! HE.. HE'LL *DIE!*

NO. IT IS NOT AS IT *SEEMS,* LITTLE SISTER!

SOME MANNER OF *TIME/SPACE WARP* HAS OPENED *THROUGH* HIM--

--ONE I BELIEVE WE SHOULD *ENTER!*

WELL... OKAY.

...BUT I SURE AS HECK HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *DOING!*

THEY ARE SWALLOWED BY THE LIGHT.

27

THIS LIGHT BLINDS!

IT FILLS THE SMALL CHAMBER SOMEWHERE IN THE NARKOSIAN PLEASURE PARLOR... AND IT HERALDS DEATH!

YOU HAVE SEEN THAT RESISTANCE IS FUTILE! YOU MAY DO NOTHING SAVE COWER IN FEAR--

--AND AWAIT HIS BEGINNING UPON THIS PLANE!

I'VE GOT *ANOTHER* CHOICE, GUARDIAN...

...I CAN TAKE THE *DEFENSIVE*...

"...TO BEWARE THE POWER OF GREEN LANTERN'S LIGHT!"

YAAARGG

"...FOR THOUGH YOU HAVE BEEN CHANGED--

"--YOU SURELY HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE ADMONITION IN OUR OATH...

It would seem this monstrosity cares LITTLE for the bright glow of a heart untainted by EVIL...

...and THAT shall prove his... ahem... DOWNFALL!

28

the creature does not RISE, friend Katma! our assault was not so over-whelming--!

URRRRR-RRRHH!

NO... IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH *US*, XAX--

--IT'S THE *DOORWAY!* SOMETHING *BINDS* THE GUARDIAN'S CREATURE TO ITS ENERGIES!

IF WE COULD ONLY *SEAL* IT OFF....!

Flood it with the power of your RING, Katma Tui! Perhaps we can OVER-LOAD it with energy!

FOOLS! YOU SHOULD HAVE HEEDED ME... FOR NOW, RATHER THAN A SWIFT DEATH--

29

--I CAN PROMISE YOU... SUFFERING!

YOUR POWERS... ARE *AWESOME*, BEINGS... AND FOR THAT... FOR *THAT*...

BY MY ANCESTORS... THE GUARDIAN *GROWS!*

STOP your bombardment! they are FEEDING off our power!

... I DO *THANK YOU!* HAHAHAHA!

NAY... NO *MORE*, INSECT! I HAVE FED, AND I AM ALL BUT *SATED*... WITH NEARLY EVERY *IOTA* OF POWER FROM YOUR BATTERIES AND RINGS--

--AND WITH WHICH *MAALDOR, THE ALMIGHTY*, HAS BROKEN **FREE** OF HIS IMPRISONMENT IN A DIMENSION BEYOND TIME!

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

30

AHH, BUT *THAT* WAS MERELY THE *FIRST* PHASE, GLADIATORS OF OA...

...FOR WITH MAALDOR IN *THIS* REALM, IS IT NOT *RIGHT* THAT HIS *OWN* DIMENSION SHOULD BE LEFT TO WITHER AND *DIE* WITHOUT HIM?

CAREFUL, XAX! HE SOUNDS QUITE *MAD!*

--AS I AM *EVIL*... AND *POWER!*

QUITE *PERCEPTIVE*, RING-BEARER! I *AM* MAD...OR RATHER AM I MADNESS *ITSELF*--

BUT YOU *DOUBT* MY WORDS, EH, WOMAN?

MAYHAP A *TASTE* OF MY *AWESOME* ABILITIES WILL CONVINCE YOU!

UGHHH... S-STRENGTH... BEING... D-DRAINED...

YOURS... AND THE *MYSTERIOUS* EMERALD ENERGY OF *ALL* THE GREEN LANTERNS ACROSS THIS UNIVERSE!

THEIR RINGS *DIE*... SENDING MANY TO THEIR *DEATHS*...

...AND *THEIR* POWER TO ME! HAHAHAHA!

YESSSS... YES! FILL ME TO BURSTING! FLOOD ME WITH MIGHT!

HA HA HA HA! IT IS SO GOOD, SO VERY DELICIOUS! TIME AND TIME AGAIN DID I REACH FORTH INTO THIS DIMENSION FROM MY OWN--

MAALDOR THE *IMMORTAL* WAS *DESTROYED* BY HIS HAND.. MADE INTO A DIMENSION OF *PURE CONSCIOUSNESS...* AND TOTAL *MADNESS!*

--ONLY TO MEET THE BEING KNOWN AS *SUPERMAN,* AND *OTHERS* OF HIS SUPER-POWERED ILK!

TWICE MORE DID I SEEK VENGEANCE UPON SUPERMAN--

--TWICE MORE DID I MEET WITH DEFEAT! BUT NOW, MORTALS... *NOW,* I SHALL *TRIUMPH!*

I DID *SLEEP* UNTIL MY *COSMIC CONSCIOUSNESS* SENSED THE POWER SOURCE OF THE GUARDIANS AND THEIR CORPS--

--AND THROUGH EFFORTS *UNIMAGINED,* I TAPPED INTO IT... MAKING IT *MINE*... MAKING THE *UNIVERSE MINE!*

32

ANOTHER PLACE...

HE IS GONE, INSIGNIFICANT ONE! THERE IS ONLY YOU NOW, LEFT TO STAVE OFF DISASTER! HAHAHA!

YOU CAN SCOFF AT THE IDEA, IF YOU WISH--

--BUT I HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DO JUST THAT EVERY NOW AND AGAIN!

BESIDES, SOMETHING TELLS ME ARKKIS CHUMMUCK HAS MERELY BEEN TRANSPORTED ELSEWHERE--

--AND, WITH MY POWER RING TO FORCE OPEN THE WARP THROUGH WHICH HE WENT...

...I MAY JOIN HIM!

FAREWELL!

THE UNIVERSE TURNS INSIDE OUT--

--AND, WHEN IT AT LAST RIGHTS ITSELF IN THE EYES OF CH'P OF H'VLYN...

CHEET! I WAS RIGHT! ARKKIS... AND THE OTHERS!

MOST OF US, ANYWAY!

AYE, WE'VE YET TO HEAR FROM KATMA AND XAX!

BUT... WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?!

33

A FINE QUESTION, CH'P. I WISH I COULD *ANSWER* IT.

AYE, WE ONLY KNOW THAT WE WERE *BROUGHT* HERE BY THE EVIL PRESENCE.

... AND WE'VE BEEN LEFT *HANGING* EVER SINCE!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR *RINGS?* THEY STILL GLOW WITH POWER!

WE'VE *TRIED* THAT, CH'P. THOUGH FULLY CHARGED--

--THEY FAIL TO *RESPOND* TO OUR MENTAL COMMANDS. IT IS AS IF OUR *WILLS* WERE NO LONGER *ENOUGH!*

HMM... PERHAPS *INDIVIDUALLY*..

--BUT IF WE PUT OUR RINGS *TOGETHER* AND *POOL ALL* OUR POWER INTO *ME*...?

AYE, THAT MAY WELL *DO* IT.

BUT *I* SHOULD BE THE VESSEL FOR THIS POWER. I AM THE *LARGEST.*

CONSIDERING THE AWESOME ENERGIES INVOLVED, *SIZE* COULD BE A *DECISIVE* FACTOR.

HE'S RIGHT. OKAY, ARKKIS... *READY?*

LET OUR RINGS *TOUCH*... LET THEIR ENERGIES BECOME AS *ONE!*

IT'S *WORKING!* HOW DO YOU *FARE*, ARKKIS?

34

I...I... WILL... S-SURVIVE... L-LITTLE BROTHER...

PAIN FLOODS ARKKIS CHUMMUCK. HIS INSIDES CHURN VIOLENTLY IN REJECTION OF THE AWESOME ENERGY COURSING THROUGH HIM... BUT HE HOLDS...

...BECAUSE HE KNOWS OTHERS WILL SUFFER MORE IF HE DOES NOT!

YOU HAVE AT LAST QUIETED DOWN, I SEE. IT HAS TAKEN YOU A WHILE TO REALIZE MAALDOR CANNOT BE DEFIED!

IF YOU HAD BUT KNOWN THAT I LED YOU ON FROM THE START, LURING YOU ALL INTO DANGERS SO THAT YOU WOULD BE FORCED TO USE YOUR POWER RINGS--

--PROVIDING THE MEANS OF MY REBIRTH! AND YOUR COMRADES? THEY ARE BEING HELD IN RESERVE ELSEWHERE...

...THEIR RINGS TO BE THE HAMMERS THAT SHATTER THE BARRIERS BETWEEN THE TWO DIMENSIONS!

35

I AM DONE WITH YOU, SO I... EH?

BY ALL THAT IS UNHOLY... NO! A GREEN LANTERN COMES THROUGH THE GUARDIAN!

I KNOW NOT HOW YOU FOUND ESCAPE, FOOL... BUT YOU SHALL SUFFER DEARLY FOR THE ACT!

SUCH ARE THE RISKS OF MY CALLING, EVIL ONE!

BUT IF I MUST SUFFER--

--AT LEAST I WON'T SUFFER ALONE!

WE ARE FREE!

YEAH... BUT INTO WHAT...?!

IT DOESN'T MATTER--THE GUARDIAN AND OUR FRIENDS ARE HERE... AS IS, IF I DON'T MISS MY GUESS, THE CAUSE OF THIS!

36

CAREFUL! WE MUSTN'T RELEASE OUR HANDS--

--OR THE CHAIN OF POWER TO ARKKIS WILL BE BROKEN!

I SEE WHAT YOU'RE UP TO! COULD YOU USE SOME EXTRA RINGS?

ALL WE CAN GET, KATMA TUI--

--FOR ARKKIS'S SAKE... AND THAT OF THE UNIVERSE!

YOU ARE ALL FOOLS! DO YOU THINK THIS FEEBLE ATTEMPT WILL DETER ME?

I'VE NOTHING BUT HOPE THAT IT CAN, VILLAIN!

YOU STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND, MORTAL... MAALDOR HAS COME...

TWAAMMM

HOPE HAS DIED!

UNNH!

NEVER, MAALDOR! YOU CAN STRIKE AT HOPE... YOU CAN CAUSE IT TO FLEE FOR A MOMENT--

--BUT YOU WILL NEVER KILL IT!

IN AN ABSTRACT, PHILOSOPHICAL WAY, YOU ARE CORRECT, BRUTE...

37

...BUT ONCE I *DESTROY* ALL BEINGS *CAPABLE* OF HOPE...WELL, IT IS THE *SAME* THING, IS IT NOT? *HAHAHAHA!*

CURSE YOU, MONSTER!

AH, I FEAR IT IS FAR TOO *LATE* FOR *THAT*, GLADIATOR! IT IS TOO LATE FOR *ANYTHING!*

YOU FIGHT IN *VAIN*, FOR NO MATTER HOW MUCH POWER YOUR COMPANIONS FEED YOU, *I* STILL HAVE *MORE!*

HE IS *RIGHT!* I CANNOT *FIGHT* HIS POWER... UNLESS ...I TAKE COUNSEL FROM *HIS* STRATEGY--

--AND *TAKE* THAT ENERGY...

...*ABSORBING* IT INTO *MY* OWN BODY! YET... WITH THE ENERGY I HAVE ALREADY ABSORBED... CAN I *STAND* THIS MUCH *MORE?!*

THE *FOOL!* HIS BODY WILL NOT *TOLERATE* SO MUCH POWER!

NO...NOT FOR LONG... BUT IT IS THE *ONLY* WAY...

OH MY GOD! WH-WHAT'S HE *DOING...?!*

...THE TREE SPIRIT *GUARD* HIS SOUL...

38

ARKKIS CHUMMUCK SCREAMS.

AND, IN THAT INSTANT, HE BELIEVES THAT HE CAN ACTUALLY FEEL HIS EVERY ATOM SWELLING WITH RAW ENERGY.

HE BELIEVES THAT HE CAN ACTUALLY HEAR HIS MUSCLE TISSUE STRAIN AND THEN SNAP, AS HIS BONES BEGIN TO DISINTEGRATE FROM WITHIN.

ARKKIS CHUMMUCK IS DYING--AND HE KNOWS IT--BUT HE HAS NO REGRETS.

FOR IN THIS LIFE, HE HAS BEEN A GREEN LANTERN; HE HAS SAVED UNTOLD LIVES AND TRAVELED TO WORLDS HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT BEYOND IMAGINING.

HE HAS GIVEN HIS ALL, WITHOUT RELUCTANCE, WITHOUT HESITATION, TO MAKE HIS UNIVERSE A BETTER PLACE FOR HIS HAVING BEEN THERE--

--AND THAT KNOWLEDGE GIVES HIM SOME SMALL SATISFACTION IN THESE FINAL AGONIZING INSTANTS--

--FOR THAT IS ENOUGH TO HAVE DONE IN A SOLITARY LIFETIME...

AYE--MORE THAN ENOUGH.

AGAINST THE PAIN, ARKKIS CHUMMUCK STRUGGLES TO SMILE AT HIS STRAINING COMPANIONS, AND, A HEARTBEAT LATER, HE IS...

...GONE...

BOTH OF THEM... GONE...

39

EYES BLINDED BY TEARS BLINK...

...AND WHEN THEY LOOK AGAIN, THE WORLD SUDDENLY SEEMS NORMAL.

THE DANGER IS *PASSED*, FAITHFUL LANTERNS! I AM AGAIN IN CONTACT WITH MY FELLOWS AND ALL IS *WELL*.

YOU SHOULD BE PROUD...

B-BUT... *ARKKIS*...

...DESTROYED *MAALDOR*, AND IN SO DOING, DESTROYED *HIMSELF*.

HE SHALL BE *MISSED*...

...BUT HE KNEW AS YOU *ALL* KNOW THAT HE MIGHT ONE DAY BE THE OBJECT OF OUR *MOURNING*.

ARKKIS CHUMMUCK WAS A NOBLE BEING AND THUS DID NOT HESITATE WHEN THAT DAY CAME. HIS SACRIFICE WAS *GREAT*--

--BUT AS A *GREEN LANTERN*, HE COULD DO NO LESS.

OUR COMRADE WILL BE *REMEMBERED*... AS HIS RING OF POWER IS PASSED TO *ANOTHER*...

...FOR, IN THAT WAY, HE SHALL *LIVE ON*...

"...AS LONG AS THERE STANDS THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS..."

IN BRIGHTEST DAY, IN BLACKEST NIGHT, NO EVIL SHALL *ESCAPE* MY SIGHT...

END

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"